

# HOFMANN'S CONFESSION



## VOLUME ONE



A PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTING OF THE TRANSCRIPTS OF  
SALT LAKE COUNTY PROSECUTORS' INTERVIEWS WITH  
CONVICTED FORGER AND MURDERER MARK HOFMANN



# Office of Salt Lake County Attorney

DAVID E. YOCOM  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

## MARK HOFMANN INTERVIEWS

INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED AT  
UTAH STATE PRISON BETWEEN  
FEBRUARY 11 AND MAY 27, 1987

TRANSCRIPTS, SUPPLEMENTS AND EXHIBITS

000106

Volume 1

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>DATE OF INTERVIEW</u>	<u>INDIVIDUALS PRESENT</u>	<u>PAGE NUMBER</u>
January 7, 8, 22	Hofmann, Yengich, Stott, Biggs	SS Pg. 1
February 11, 1987	Hofmann, Yengich, Stott, Biggs	3
February 17, 1987	Hofmann, Yengich, Stott, Biggs	68
February 27, 1987	Hofmann, Yengich, Stott, Biggs	105
March 12, 1987	Hofmann, Rich, Biggs	175
March 17, 1987	Hofmann, Biggs, George, Rich	243
April 1, 1987	Hofmann, Yengich, Stott, Biggs	296
April 7, 1987	Hofmann, Yengich, Stott, Biggs	313
April 22, 1987	Hofmann, Rich, Biggs, Stott	363
April 30, 1987	Hofmann, Rich, Biggs, Stott	429
May 15, 1987	Yengich, Hofmann, Biggs, Stott	487
May 27, 1987	Yengich, Hofmann, Biggs, Stott	S1 pg. 2
	Exhibits	

EXHIBITSDESCRIPTION

A	Anthon Transcript
B	Jos. Smith III Blsg.
C	White Notes
D	Lucy Mack Smith Letter
E	Josiah Stowell Letter
F	E. B. Grandin Contract
G	General Dunham Letter
H	Book of Common Prayer
I	Witmer to Walton Conrad
K	Witmer to Bithell Todd
L	Desseret Currency Notes
M	Emma Smith Hymnal
N	Bridger Note
O	Martin Harris to W.W. Phelps letter
P	Betsy Ross Letter
Q	Oath of a Freeman



# Office of the Salt Lake County Attorney

DAVID E. YOCOM

County Attorney



The following Supplement to the transcripts of the interviews with Mark Hofmann was prepared by Deputy Salt Lake County Attorneys Robert L. Stott and David Biggs from the notes made during 3 interviews with Mark Hofmann prior to his pleas of guilty in the Third District Court on January 23, 1987.

Mark Hofmann, his attorney, Ron Yengich, Mr. Stott, Mr. Biggs, and Salt Lake City Police Detective Jim Bell met at the Utah State Prison on May 27, 1987, for the purpose of conducting further interviews with Detective Bell's participation specifically, about the homicides and some additional questions about the McClellin Collection. The record which was made at that time by the court reporter had been included in these transcripts.

Another interview was scheduled the following week without the participation of Detective Bell. Prior to the date of that interview, Mr. Hofmann, through his counsel, canceled the meeting. No further interviews were scheduled. Since the interviews had ceased prematurely, it was determined that the prosecutors' notes would be used to supplement the transcribed interviews.

231 East 400 South Salt Lake City, Utah 84111 (801) 363-7900

The following information concerning the bombings of October 15 and 16 of 1985 and the forged "Salamander Letter" was obtained from Mark Hofmann in interviews conducted by prosecutors on January 7, 8, and 22, 1987 at the residence of Ronald Yengich in Salt Lake City, Utah. Those present were Mark Hofmann; Ronald Yengich, Hofmann's Attorney; and Deputy Salt Lake County Attorneys Robert Stott and David Biggs. During the interviews the prosecutors took notes of Mr. Hofmann's statements.

Mark Hofmann gave the following background information: When he was about 12 years old, he received the scar under his right chin as a result of a chemical experiment. He and a cousin, Mike, had placed wood alcohol in a closed beaker. It exploded, causing a burn on his chin, which required a skin graft.

Around the same time there was an incident in which he and a friend, Brian, made a black powder incendiary device which was put into a sterno can. A fuse of black powder was placed in the can and he gave it to Brian to explode at the school yard near his home on Connor Street. Brian took the cap off to ignite it but it didn't explode. Obviously, said Hofmann, it didn't explode because it wasn't under pressure before it was ignited.

Hofmann said he was extremely knowledgeable in the manufacture of black gunpowder. He had been making black gunpowder since he had been in elementary school. He had obtained the formula and percentage make-up of black gunpowder in the World Book Encyclopedia. He and Mike made black powder out of sulfur, saltpeter and charcoal. The saltpeter was some type of

potassium nitrate. He never owned a chemistry set although his older sister had one. He liked to use more sophisticated, detailed equipment which he purchased at Mill Creek Pharmacy. He bought the brand name "Perfect Chemicals."

Another incident occurred with another friend, Ted. They made black powder, went over to a park and detonated it. He remembered when he and Mike made a sort of cannon out of pipe along with a kind of a extension cord ignition system. They shot rocks out of this pipe and knocked leaves off the trees. He blew up a bottle with dry ice. He enjoyed firecrackers and cherry bombs. He thought that they were fun, and he even purchased cherry bombs, one for a dollar each. He said that he knew that was expensive but he enjoyed it.

A few months before the October bombings, Hofmann asked Shannon Flynn, a friend, to obtain some blasting caps for him. Hofmann wanted to make a bomb out of nitrate fertilizer and diesel oil. He needed the blasting caps as a concussion device to detonate the mixture. Flynn gave him two fuse blasting caps which he had obtained from a source in Richfield, Utah. Hofmann threw them away sometime before October, 1985 because he knew that people might be checking or searching his home and he didn't want the caps lying around.

Hofmann didn't remember for sure, but thought that he might have purchased some books on bombs at a gun show that he and Flynn had attended. The idea for the nails packed around the Christensen bomb came from one of the books. Its purpose was to increase the possibility of death. He did remember thumbing

through the "Anarchist Cook Book," which was purchased by Shannon Flynn. He said his bombs of October were very simple compared to those in the "Anarchist Cook Book."

Mark Hofmann then related the following information about the bombings of October 15 and 16, 1985: He knew he was going to make two bombs to kill two people, but at first he wasn't sure who the victims would be. He thought of several scenarios for the bombings. First he thought that one of the bombs would kill either Thomas Wilding or Brent Ashworth and the second bomb would kill himself. Then he thought that possibly the bombs should be for Steve Christensen and Thomas Wilding, and finally he thought about killing Thomas Wilding and Brent Ashworth with the two bombs. Hofmann stated that it wasn't until the morning of the 15th of October when he made the bombs that he settled on the actual targets.

On October 5th he made two trips to the Radio Shack at the Cottonwood Mall. On the first trip, he purchased a mercury switch and a D size battery pack. He went to the Radio Shack at 30th East and 33rd South to look at the mercury switches there, since he was intending to make two bombs. He turned the mercury switch back and forth and saw that it was defective. The mercury stayed connected to the prong, and thus, the switch would not be suitable for his purpose because the bomb would have been detonated immediately upon connection of the mercury switch. He returned to the Radio Shack at the Cottonwood Mall and purchased another mercury switch, C size battery packs, and a circuit tester. With each visit to Radio Shack, he used the name

Mike Hansen. Hofmann thought that he had used the alias "Mike Hansen" as early as 1978. At first it was a game, his way of playing detective. He used the alias in 1979 at the University of Utah Special Collections Library. He also used it at the LDS Church Archives, the Utah State University Archives Special Collections, and the New York Public Library. He bought a tire from David Early Tire using the alias Mike Hansen. His only explanation was that he must have felt like being secretive that day. He used the alias in Denver and in Kansas City. In Utah he used it at DeBouzek, Utah Engraving, Salt Lake Stamp, and at BYU. Hofmann said that the police searches of my home weren't very good, they left the plates. The plates he made reference to were for the counterfeit Deseret Currency, postmarks, and other items which he would not detail. They were located in a sack in the workroom closet on a shelf. The police failed to seize the items and he later destroyed them when he was released on bail.

On the same date, October 5, 1985, he purchased the Estes Rocket Igniters and batteries from Hammonds on 7200 South. He also bought tannic acid at Hammonds, but refused to explain why. On this same day, Hofmann also purchased the pipe used in the bombs from a Holiday Hardware and Lumber Store located across the street from Cottonwood Mall. He requested 2 pieces of one inch diameter pipe in twelve inch lengths. The pipes were cut and threaded for him at the store. Like all of his purchases on this date he paid cash. He also bought at the Holiday Lumber Yard a pair of leather gloves, a pair of painting gloves (rubber), and a

magic marker to address the packages the bombs were to be placed into.

The end pipe caps, nails, and gunpowder were purchased at Allied located at 6200 South State on the same day. He knew that he shouldn't purchase them all at the same time so he first bought two cans of Hercules Bulls-eye gunpowder. He carried the powder to his car, the Toyota MR2, and then returned to the store and purchased the end pipes and nails. He used different cashiers at Allied's; one for the gunpowder and another for the end pipes and cement nails (the nails were wrapped around the Christensen bomb). He made his final purchase of the day at Mail Box U.S.A. on 3300 South, Salt Lake City. He bought tape and two 12x12x6 inch boxes that would house the bombs.

After purchasing the bomb components, Hofmann returned home and placed the materials on a blanket in his downstairs den. This was the same room in which he performed his forgery work. The door was locked and no one was allowed into that room. However one night, just before he prepared the bombs, Shannon Flynn wanted to inspect the house because he wanted to purchase it. Hofmann threw the blanket over the parts; Flynn walked into the room, walked around, and walked out.

On October 10, 1985, Hofmann went to an area off of I-80 near Grantsville to test fire the bomb components. This is when he received a speeding ticket in his MR2. He wasn't able to perform the test because there was too much snow and mud. The next day, October 11, he returned to test once more. Into a 1/2 inch pipe, which he found in his garage, he placed gunpowder

and a rocket igniter. He connected the wire of the rocket igniter to a 50 foot extension cord, walked back to a small gully, and connected the extension cord to a battery pack. The bomb exploded. He then knew if he were to make a bomb of twice that size he would be able to kill someone with it. He threw the extension cord into a salt water drying pool. At first he thought it might still be out there, but on second thought, he didn't know if there would be much left because of the coercive nature of the salt. At this particular time when he was testing in the desert on October 11, 1985, he felt that it was still going to be Thomas Wilding. Hofmann said he wanted to kill him.

On the evening hours of October 14, Hofmann and Shannon Flynn went to Max Anderson's home to talk about polygamy. Afterwards he dropped Shannon Flynn off at his home at Quailbrook Condominiums. When he got home Doralee, his wife, was still up. It was approximately 11:30 p.m. He visited with his wife for a little while and then she went to bed. He went into his downstairs room and constructed the bombs. He drilled the holes into the pipes in the garage and carefully picked up all of the filings from the garage. It didn't take long, probably 2 hours or less to construct the two bombs. Several times Hofmann stated that the bombs were simple devices. They were not as complex as the ones depicted in the "Anarchist Cook Book". Hofmann made a safety device for each bomb. He said he wouldn't have carried the bombs without it. He made small holes in the boxes with an ice pick. He threaded the wires from the pipe bombs through the holes and taped them separately onto the outside of the box. When he

delivered the bombs, he took the tape off the wires and connected them. Then, if the packages were tipped, the mercury in the switch would complete the circuit and the bombs would explode. He said that at the preliminary hearing he examined some of the remnants of the boxes that had been introduced into evidence and found one of these small holes.

He finished the assembling of the bomb packages by writing the names Steve Christensen and Gary Sheets on the packages. He didn't know Sheets address so he looked it up in the phone directory. He underlined Sheets' address in the directory with the same magic marker that he used to write the names on the boxes. When he was released from jail on bail, he destroyed the directory. The bombs were finished by 2:00 a.m. the morning of October 15, 1985. He said he constructed the bombs at night because that was when he did his best work, his forgeries.

Hofmann stated that it was while constructing the bombs that he finally decided for whom the bombs were intended. He said he wasn't rational at the time, but decided that Steve Christensen would have to be killed so that the McLellin transaction would not take place. He believed Steve Christensen was an honorable man, but close-mouthed. From some cryptic remarks that Steve had made, Hofmann knew that CFS and Gary Sheets were in trouble. CFS was going under and Sheets might be liable for some legal troubles. Hofmann said Gary Sheets was probably correct when he told the police he didn't remember meeting Mark Hofmann because he, Hofmann, hadn't remembered meeting Sheets. The meeting was not very memorable for either. The second bomb,

with the name Gary Sheets on it, was simply a diversion so that everyone would believe the bombings were the result of CFS business problems.

Hofmann said the thing that attracted him to bombs as a means of killing was that he didn't have to be there at the time of the killings. He didn't think he could pull the trigger on someone if he faced them, but he could do it if he didn't have to be around. He said he only filled the Sheets pipe bomb half full of powder, and he didn't think the rocket igniter would work because it was three-fourths chipped away. He said it didn't matter to him if the Sheets' bomb went off or not because its purpose was to establish a diversion. For this purpose, the death of someone was not necessary. He realized, of course, that a bomb left at the residence could kill or severely injury someone, but it didn't really matter to him.

Upon completion of the bomb and packages Hofmann cleared up the area and put the following left-over items into two bags: a full can of Bulls-eye powder, battery packs, the old blanket he used as his work area, the "marks-a-lot" pen he used to address the packages, the drill bits used to make holes in the pipe, his soldering iron, solder, rags used to wipe off the grease from the threaded ends of the pipes, tape, and unused rocket igniters. Later that morning these two bags and their contents were dropped off by Hofmann into dumpsters. One bag was discarded into a dumpster at an apartment complex near 2100 East and 3300 South. The other was dumped into a dumpster at the apartments where Shannon Flynn lived, the Quailbrook Apartments.

Sometime after 2:45 a.m., Hofmann placed the two bombs and two bags into his van and left for the Sheets' residence. Hofmann thought that Aaron Teplick was a good witness at the preliminary hearing but that he was wrong about the time Hofmann drove by the Sheets' home. According to Hofmann, the time was 3:00 a.m. rather than midnight. After driving by the Sheets home, he went back up, parked, walked to the garage, and placed the bomb package upright in front of the garage door closest to the front door. He then connected the two wires which had been taped to the box. The bomb would now go off if the package was tipped. He had tested the mercury switch with the light tester and knew that if the box was tipped at a 90° angle or knocked over, it would explode. He placed the bomb about five feet from the garage door thinking that a car leaving the area would hit it. He couldn't understand why a car hadn't hit the package and detonated it before Kathryn Sheets later found it.

Hofmann returned to his house around 3:30 a.m. While he was still downstairs his daughter awoke. His wife, who was upstairs, asked him to take care of the little girl, which he did until she went back to sleep awhile later.

Sometime between 6:00 and 6:30 a.m. that morning he went to the Judge Building to deliver the second bomb. He parked the van in front of the building on the south side of 3rd South. He first went into the building and up to the sixth floor without the bomb package to see the "lay of the land". He returned to his van, sat in it for a moment, and then returned to the building with the bomb. He got into the elevator with Hal Passey and Hal's

father. He said a fourth person, a rather attractive woman, was also in the elevator. He pressed the button for the fifth floor. By the time the elevator arrived at that floor, all the others passenagers had exited on lower floors. He then pressed the sixth floor button and left the elevator on that floor. He walked directly to Steve Christensen's office and placed the bomb package inside the door jam. He fastened the wires together and returned to the street level by way of the elevator. He didn't see anyone on the sixth floor and didn't think anyone saw him there.

To eliminate fingerprints, he wore gloves while delivering both bombs. In front of the Judge Building he took off the gloves and threw them into a trash can. He did this he said to test fate. To explain why the gloves were not found by the police when they searched that trash can later, he thought that maybe a bag lady or two bums he had seen in the area had picked them up.

That morning as he delivered each of the bombs he wore tan pants, a striped shirt, black shoes, a green high school jacket with tan sleeves, glasses, and gloves. He had not shaved, but wore no mustache. He said he wore his jacket and used the name Mike Hansen to leave little clues. He was kind of hoping to get caught and thought if they could catch him, they should.

From the Judge Building, Hofmann returned to his house as the clock was chiming 7:00 a.m. Around 8:30 a.m. he called the Sheets' home number, but no one answered. He said if someone had answered he would have disguised his voice and told them that there was a bomb in their driveway and not to touch it. He said

he was already regretting the Christensen bomb and was considering calling Christensen. He called Christensen's office. The answering machine responded and Hofmann hung up without leaving a message.

Hofmann speculated that his wife, Doralee, had passed the polygraph test as to his alibi because when she had awakened at 3:00 and 7:00 a.m., he was home. Also, his young son had told her that his dad had been downstairs all the time. He said she had no idea that he had left the house that night.

Hofmann said that he was very good at masking his emotions. As an example, he said that in the afternoon of the 15th he went to Dallin Oaks' office to see if the McLellin transaction was to proceed. He said that even though Oaks talked and observed him, he fooled Oaks, and Oaks never suspected he was involved in the bombings. He also spoke with Hugh Pinnock in the basement parking lot and fooled him too.

Hofmann said the third bomb, the one on October 16, 1985 that exploded in his car, was a suicide attempt. He said he was distraught over the killings the day before. He thought that he deserved death, and it would be the best thing for his family. He also admitted that he had placed a number of inconsequential papers in the car so that people would think that the McLellin Collection, which did not exist, was blown up in the explosion and fire.

On the 16th of October, Hofmann went to Logan to purchase the bomb parts for the third bomb. Hofmann used the name Bill Edwards at Radio Shack in Logan. Hofmann bought several

items, but the only ones that he could specifically remember were the battery pack and the wires. The batteries came from K-Mart. The rocket engine igniter and gloves had already been purchased. He bought a three-inch elbow to confuse the people from whom he was purchasing the pipe so that they wouldn't get suspicious about someone buying two end caps and a length of pipe. Hofmann then went up into Logan Canyon and prepared the bomb. He wanted a quick and clean death, so he made the pipe sixteen inches long. It was substantially larger than the ones that killed Kathryn Sheets and Steve Christensen. He then drove down to Salt Lake, parked in his normal spot across from the Deseret Gym, and walked in to get a drink of water to bolster his courage. He went back to the car. The bomb was in a paper sack on the passenger seat. He put it on the driver's seat, touched the two wires together, and the bomb exploded.

Mark Hofmann began the interview regarding the "Salamander Letter" by stating that it was a forgery. To write it he researched the matter thoroughly and relied extensively upon Mormonism Unveiled and the Joseph Knight affidavit. Hofmann had read books on magic at the University of Utah Library and had also had discussions with Brent Metcalfe about magic. He composed the letter in about two hours when he was visiting the Church Historical Library. He called Lynn Jacobs in Boston and read the draft to him. He stole the paper from the Niles Register, a series of books printed in the 1830's, located at the University of Utah Special Collection Library. The handwriting style of the letter was copied basically from the available Martin Harris

signature, the samples of letters and styles from that era, and the common style and standards that were employed at that time. He attempted to keep the handwriting of the letter consistent with the handwriting of the known Martin Harris signature. Hofmann researched the mail schedules from and to Palmyra and the surrounding areas and knew what post office date and mark to affix. He knew that prior to 1829 the Palmyra postmark was black and afterwards it was red. The beginning of the letter, "I received your letter today and hasten to respond" was from words he had seen in actual letters from that era and place; therefore he was sure the time sequence was proper.

Hofmann said he created what he believed actual history to be. He believed Joseph Smith was involved in magic. The early writings of Joseph Smith didn't characterize his experience as a first vision but as a dream. Hofmann was aware that salamanders or toads are commonly associated with magic literature. He said his salamander letter was a magic forgery.

Mark Hofmann said that paper from the Niles Register at the University of Utah was also used for the Josiah Stowell 1830 letter, the Lucy Mack Smith letter and other forgeries. The postmark on the Lucy Mack Smith letter was from a plate he created himself from a photograph of an original postmark, probably one from Courtland Covers. He did most of the printing himself from plates he made. He did his own photography, chemical work, etching, and printing. He said that people would be surprised at how much he did to insure that the Oath of a Freeman would pass the forensic tests, but that he got lazy and he had the Oath plate

made professionally. Hofmann said that he obviously should have made the Oath plate himself.

The poem appearing in the Book of Common Prayer, supposedly written in Martin Harris' handwriting, was another Mark Hofmann creation. It was a forgery. The Josiah Stowell letter was forged before the Salamander Letter. As far as Hofmann knew, there was and is no Oliver Cowdery History. He told Brent Metcalf that it existed because it excited Brent. The Bible in which he claimed the Anthon Transcript was found was purchased by Hofmann while he was in Bristol, England on his mission. He bought it from an upstairs book store located near the 49th Street Stairs. At one time he told his wife that the Anthon Transcript was a fake, but because it so greatly affected her, he later told her he was only joking and that it was genuine. Although she probably felt or suspected that many of his items were forgeries, she still thought that the Oath of a Freeman and the Salamander Letter were authentic.

Hofmann said that many years ago he had sold a forged Daniel Boone letter to Kenneth Rendell. He also had sold over \$500,000.00 worth of forgeries to Charles Hamilton whom he said never suspected a thing. Hofmann had prior experience with forensic scientist and knew that he could get his forgeries past the scrutiny of any expert or test available.

INTERVIEWS  
CASE OF STATE VS. HOFMANN

FEBRUARY 11, 1987 through MAY 15, 1987

(FEBRUARY 11, 1987)

COPY

1 FEBRUARY 11, 1987, 2:25 P.M.

2 PRESENT: Robert Stott, Esq., David Biggs, Esq.,  
3 Ronald Yengich, Esq.

4 P R O C E E D I N G S

5 MR. YENGICH: It's the 11th of February, 1987,  
6 2:25 P. M. Present are Mark Hofmann; Ronald Yengich, his  
7 lawyer; Robert Stott and David Biggs of the Salt Lake County  
8 Attorneys Office. We are at the Utah State Prison, 288 Unit  
9 and we are going to continue the discussion which began  
10 sometime ago relative to the case of State of Utah vs.  
11 Mark Hofmann.

12 (Discussion held off the record.)

13 MR. STOTT: Mark, let's start at the Anthon  
14 Transcript.

15 MR. YENGICH: Let me interrupt, Bob. I'm  
16 sorry. When do you intend to go today? I had planned until  
17 4:30

18 MR. STOTT: We'll go as long as we can. We're  
19 here to go as long as we can. We'll go to the Anthon  
20 Transcript and go from there in kind of chronological order.  
21 That might be the easiest way for everybody to look at it  
22 and probably what we'll try to do is direct questioning and  
23 I'm sure in a lot of situations you will just take it from  
24 there and run with it. But let's start with the Bible, if  
25 we could. That's probably a good place to start.

1                   We are talking, of course, about the Cambridge  
2 Bible. Can you tell us, Mark, where you first saw this,  
3 when it was and under what circumstances?

4                   A     Yes, I acquired it in Bristol, England on my  
5 mission. It's dated 1668.

6                   Q     Can you tell us about when it was? Do you have  
7 a reference to the date, month?

8                   A     Not the month. Probably 1975.

9                   Q     Do you remember who your companion was at that  
10 time?

11                  A     No, I don't. It would have been my, I had  
12 several companions in Bristol, all of which or at least most  
13 of which probably went with me to book stores where I bought  
14 books. This is one of the books that I bought.

15                  Q     Do you remember the month you were in Bristol?  
16 Maybe we can narrow it down that way.

17                  A     The month I was there?

18                  Q     Yes, in Bristol.

19                  A     Not really, although I can get that  
20 information for you or you probably have the information  
21 already from my mission records.

22                  Q     Was it kind of in the middle of the time you  
23 were there? Beginning?

24                  A     More toward the beginning, I believe.

25                  Q     Do you want to tell us where you went and where

1 it was?

2 A Yes. There are some, I believe it's called the  
3 30 Stairs. It's at the top of that, those stairs. There's  
4 a bookstore there. I can't remember the name of the shop.

5 MR. YENGICH: How much did that cost back  
6 then?

7 A Probably, less than a pound

8 MR. STOTT: Is the name of it the 30 Stairs  
9 Bookstore?

10 A The 39 Stairs or the 30 Stairs.

11 Q And it's on the second floor?

12 A It was all the way up to the top of them. It  
13 was at the top. Actually there is a book shop that is in  
14 the middle but I believe that this one, you walk up to the  
15 top and then turn to your right and it's several yards down  
16 the road there.

17 Q Now, do you remember what part of town we are  
18 talking about?

19 A The one other thing that might specify it, the  
20 store specialized in occult literature.

21 Q Do you remember what part of town we are  
22 talking about?

23 A It's in the downtown section, not far from  
24 where the mission home is.

25 (Discussion held off the record.)

1                   MR. STOTT:   Anything else you remember about  
2   the bookstore that would help us as far as locating it if we  
3   had to?

4                   A     Like I said, I think it's probably the only  
5   antiquarian book shop in that area or at least the only one  
6   I remember.

7                   Q     Do you remember your mission headquarters  
8   address?

9                   A     The stairs, exactly. They are familiar  
10   because in one of the Beatle movies they came down, the  
11   Beatles were riding on top of a grand piano down those  
12   stairs

13                   MR. YENGICH:   Hard Day's Night?

14                   A     That might help you identified the stairs

15                   MR. STOTT:   It wasn't Hard Day's Night?

16                   A     It was a Beatles movie.

17                   Q     Do you remember the address?

18                   A     I really don't, no. Let's see, it was on Que  
19   Street spelled with a Q.

20                   Q     Were you with someone when you purchased it?

21                   A     Yes, I would have been with a companion.

22                   Q     Were you specifically looking for that or what  
23   made you want to buy it?

24                   A     No, most of the items I have purchased in that  
25   shop were of a Mormon nature. One other item I remember

1 specifically is a book by Caldwell, 1842, the Prophet of the  
2 19th Century. A book concerning Joseph Smith. I also  
3 bought another anti-Mormon book there called Hell Upon  
4 Earth, probably 1884, by Jarman, William Jarman

5 MR. YENGICH: How do you spell it?

6 A I believe it has an R in it. J-a-r-m-a-n.  
7 Also, some early Mormon pamphlets.

8 MR. STOTT: Was this at the same time or over  
9 a period of time?

10 A Over a period of time at that particular shop.  
11 Another book shop that you mentioned was in the middle of  
12 the stairs there to the left-hand side going up, although I  
13 don't believe I bought a single book there, that I can  
14 remember.

15 Q Did you have any specific purpose in mind when  
16 you bought the book?

17 A Let's see. Now I think about it, I believe  
18 it may have been toward the end of my mission that I  
19 purchased the book. The reason being I didn't ship it home,  
20 I brought it with me. Also, I remember specifically showing  
21 it to my mission mother, Francis Knapp, with a K, as I was  
22 leaving the mission field. I remember showing her this and  
23 also--.

24 Q Does she live in Salt Lake now, do you know?

25 A Yes.

1 Q What is her husband's name?  
2 A Arnold. They live--.  
3 Q Is that with an N or K?  
4 A With a K. They live in the apartments just  
5 northeast of the Church Office Building.  
6 Q Do you remember showing it to anyone besides  
7 her?  
8 A I'm sure I've showed it to my companions or  
9 whoever else. I really can't remember anyone else  
10 specifically. I remember her because she thought it was a  
11 nice item. I showed her this and also a Circa 1857 Book of  
12 Mormon that I purchased.  
13 Q Was that one you purchased? Different store?  
14 A At a different shop, that's right, in a store  
15 in Wales. The country of Wales.  
16 Q Did it have an inscription or something in it,  
17 the Book of Mormon?  
18 A No, but it possibly had my rubber stamp in it.  
19 That book I sold not long after I got home to Sam Weller,  
20 Zions Bookstore.  
21 Q You brought the book with you, you went--, your  
22 parents came to pick you up; didn't they?  
23 A That's right.  
24 Q And you went on a tour of sorts?  
25 A That's right.

1 Q I guess you took the book with you on the tour?

2 A That's right. It would have been packed in my  
3 suitcase.

4 Q Do you remember showing it to your family?

5 A Not specifically, although I'm sure I did with  
6 a number of other books including another old Bible, a  
7 family Bible much larger than this copy, which is probably  
8 the Bible that they would remember, if you were to ask them.

9 Q Would there have been any specific reason why  
10 they might remember you showing them this one we are talking  
11 about?

12 A No, I'm quite sure that they don't remember it  
13 or would not remember it, if showed.

14 Q Did you have any specific purpose in mind when  
15 you bought it?

16 A No. Just an old Bible that was cheap, as old  
17 Bibles are in England

18 MR. YENGICH: They are or were?

19 A Yes. They are much cheaper than in America.

20 MR. STOTT: You say you bought this one and a  
21 bigger one. Are those the only two you bought?

22 A The other one I believe I bought at the same  
23 place. It had brass hinges on it and I still own that copy.  
24 I believe those are the only two Bibles that I purchased in  
25 England.

1 Q Any other items that you purchased over there  
2 that you used later on in your manufacturing of different  
3 items?

4 A That doesn't relate to--

5 MR. YENGICH: Well, we'll get in to that  
6 later.

7 A It's easy enough to answer because the answer  
8 is no.

9 MR. STOTT: Easy answer.

10 A Yes.

11 MR. STOTT: What did you do with the the  
12 Bible?

13 A Let me clarify that. As far as using the other  
14 items for fraudulent purposes, the answer is no.

15 Q What did you do with this Bible once you got  
16 home? Did you keep it in any special place? Do anything  
17 with it?

18 A I kept it in a box with much of my other  
19 mission material.

20 Q I guess there came a time that you had a plan  
21 to use it with the Anthon Transcript?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And I want to go in to that in just a minute,  
24 but there came a time when I suppose you made some  
25 alterations or changes to the Bible?

1           A       Yes, I believe that's true.

2           Q       Can you remember when this started as far as  
3 making the changes?

4           A       It would have been-- The idea of quote, pulling  
5 off, unquote, the Anthon Transcript was just a matter of  
6 days, less than a week, in fact, before it was thought of  
7 and executed.

8           Q       So we are talking March of '80 or earlier?

9           A       I believe that was when it was. Let's see,  
10 what is the date? I believe it was March of 1980, that's  
11 correct, and that is the time, just within those very few  
12 days, that the changes were made.

13          Q       How about going in to the, I'll go in to that a  
14 little later for your ideas but maybe we can stick with the  
15 Bible. Can you tell us what changes you made, what you did  
16 to the Bible?

17          A       Yes. My name was in it. Hand stamp

18          Q       That would have been on the inside front cover?

19          A       That's right, the inside front end leaf, pasted  
20 down end sheet

21          Q       And that is where you see a little white  
22 margin?

23          A       The top righthand corner there is a little mark  
24 where apparently a bookseller's mark was, or plate.

25          Q       Maybe I mistook you then.

1           A       Let me start this over again. The name, Mark  
2 W. Hofmann, was probably stamped in to the book well before  
3 March of 1980. Probably not long after I got home from my  
4 mission. The little mark on it--

5           MR. YENGICH: He's referring, for the record,  
6 to the upper lefthand corner of the inside cover, as you  
7 open it.

8           A       Which has a white rather bleached out portion  
9 where, evidently, a bookseller's plate has been scraped off.  
10 I don't remember specifically removing that and I'm not sure  
11 that I did. It's common to find books where one bookseller  
12 removes another booksellers plate. Although it is possible  
13 that I did, the reason, if it was, if there was a plate in  
14 there, I undoubtedly would have removed it because it,  
15 undoubtedly, would have had a British bookseller's name on  
16 it.

17          Q       Is there any papers that appear to have been  
18 removed from the front as it exists now?

19          A       Yes, it looks as though the matching  
20 marble-colored end page, loose end leaf, has been removed.

21          Q       Did you remove them or is that the way you  
22 found the book?

23          A       I really can't remember if I removed it or not.  
24 I would say there's probably a 50/50 chance I removed it.  
25 If I did, it would have been because there was probably some

1 sort of a British address on it or name or some other  
2 identifying characteristic.

3 MR. BIGGS: So you didn't use that marbled end  
4 piece for the Spanish Fork Notes?

5 A No. If you will look at the pattern you will  
6 see that's different, although that's a good theory.  
7 I also notice on the title page in the top righthand corner  
8 there's what appears to be some bookseller's code or marks  
9 in it.

10 MR. STOTT: Do you want to say what that is?

11 A It is JD.B.13. There's also a hand stamp, dark  
12 blue ink, three which occurs on two places and one other  
13 possible hand stamp that I can't decipher.

14 Q Where? Next to the three?

15 A Yes, I won't even speculate what that is, I  
16 don't know.

17 Q Were all of those letters there when you bought  
18 the book?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Did you attempt to remove them or did you have  
21 any, did you recognize those and decide what to do with  
22 them?

23 A I don't believe that I tried to remove them and  
24 looking at it, I don't see any evidence that I did.

25 Q Any reason why you didn't try?

1           A       Probably because I didn't consider them  
2       important as far as giving the fraud away. Many books have  
3       bookseller marks that could have been there. Let's see,  
4       these look like they're probably 20th Century. I would  
5       guess early 20th Century.

6           Q       Was there any way to determine whether it was  
7       an American bookmark, code or English code?

8           A       No, because every bookseller has their own  
9       marks that are pretty much made up. I don't recognize this  
10      as being a sort of serialized code.

11                   (Discussion held off the record.)

12           MR. STOTT: Was there anything else on the, I  
13      guess it's the flyleaf; do you call it?

14           A       The loose page which is missing?

15           Q       No, the one we are looking at now.

16           A       Oh, this is the title page?

17           Q       Title page?

18           A       Yes, there's also some hand underlining in red  
19      and boxing in of the page which occurred throughout the  
20      book, which was a fairly common thing that was done in those  
21      days and it's in a light reddish ink.

22           Q       Who did it?

23           A       One of the previous owners.

24           Q       That's not something you did?

25           A       No. The only other item that I would have done

1 is on the back of it.

2 MR. YENGICH: Back of the title page?

3 A Yes. Back side of the title page.

4 MR. STOTT: On the reverse side?

5 A On the recto.

6 Q That sounds more official?

7 A Or verso. There's some initials, what appears  
8 to be an IS, in cursive handwriting, there are two ISes on  
9 the top. There's also, italicized print and IS in about the  
10 middle of the page and all of those, all three of which were  
11 there when I purchased the book, as I remember. At the  
12 bottom there appears to be an SS in cursive and in some sort  
13 of a fancy print.

14 Q What did you do, if anything, with that?

15 A Oh, the two Ses, I placed there.

16 Q Which one specifically? Are you talking about  
17 the ones on the bottom?

18 A The two on the very bottom, the two Ses.

19 Q Do you believe, was everything else already  
20 there?

21 A I believe everything else was there

22 MR. YENGICH: The two you placed?

23 A I believe the ISes were there. I believe the  
24 italicized ISes was there. The two Ses on the bottom I  
25 believe I, well, I'm certain I placed there.

1                   MR. YENGICH:    One in cursive and one in some  
2 sort of fancy script?

3           A        That's right.

4           MR. YENGICH:   And it is on the bottom--

5           A        The two bottom ones.

6           MR. YENGICH:   Bottom third of the page; right?

7           A        That's correct. Do you want me to initial  
8 them?

9           MR. STOTT:    No, that's fine. Let me ask you  
10 this now: Why did you decide to write there and what is the  
11 significance of what you put?

12          A        I probably decided to put initials there since  
13 there were already initials on that page and I wanted to  
14 indicate that the book belonged to one Samuel Smith, an  
15 ancestor of Joseph Smith, Jr., the Mormon Prophet.

16          Q        Did you have a particular Samuel Smith in mind  
17 at the time?

18          A        I believe Joseph Smith's great grandfather and  
19 his great great grandfather were Samuel. I didn't have  
20 either of those particularly in mind.

21          Q        You weren't thinking of the brother?

22          A        No. In fact, the brother of Joseph Smith's  
23 handwriting in no way compares, although the two ancestors  
24 of Joseph Smith by that name, no handwriting is known or at  
25 least to my knowledge no handwriting is known.

1           Q       Can you tell us any other things that you did  
2 to the Bible as far as additions, deletions, changes?

3           A       I believe there's only one other thing I did  
4 and that is in rather the middle of the Bible there's some  
5 handwriting of the Book of Amos which is handwritten and  
6 bound in.

7           Q       Can we ask you about the insert?

8           A       This is the insert I'm talking about.

9           Q       Did you put the inserts in?

10          A       No, they were already there.

11          Q       And the red marks, the red lines were already  
12 in there?

13          A       That's correct.

14          Q       Now, was the writing on the insert, was the  
15 writing there?

16          A       The writing was there except--.

17          Q       The Book of Amos?

18          A       Except for the name Samuel Smith at the  
19 conclusion of that writing.

20          Q       Was there anything before you put Samuel Smith  
21 there?

22          A       Yes, I believe that I may have made a previous  
23 attempt. There was nothing there, no, before I got it. I  
24 think I may have attempted to write a name there that I  
25 wasn't satisfied with so I bleached it out and wrote in

1 another one.

2 Q Do you remember what you used?

3 A Under ultraviolet light would indicate that.  
4 The other name would have also been Samuel Smith.

5 Q When you say bleached, just common bleach?  
6 Anything special?

7 A It was probably a combination of a dilute  
8 Clorox bleach followed by a solution of sodium bicarbonate,  
9 followed by hydrogen peroxide.

10 Q Any particular reason why you used those?  
11 Is that something you had read about and knew would be  
12 effective?

13 A I believe it's just something that I had--  
14 Well, I knew that ink eradicator had, it was Clorox bleach.  
15 As far as bicarbonate, although that also helped to bleach  
16 it, the main purpose was to preserve the paper, neutralize  
17 the bleach. Hydrogen peroxide is also a bleach which I  
18 thought up on my own, I think.

19 Q There's some, a little line or curley-Qs on  
20 the bottom of the Samuel Smith. Is that your addition?

21 A That's also my addition.

22 Q Why that?

23 A I don't know. It's fairly common practice for  
24 forgers to add flourishes or try to do more than just add a  
25 signature. I undoubtedly, you know, this is obviously a

1 crude forgery. I was, you know, made a crude attempt.  
2 Probably the holes--, one other thing that may be of  
3 interest, there are a couple of holes in the page that run  
4 through my additions. I probably purposefully placed those  
5 there to cover up a slip of the pen or shake of the bottom  
6 of the S and bottom curley-Qs. A couple holes.

7 For example, one of the White Notes I remember  
8 specifically doing that as far as to remove where I shook  
9 wrong or something in making the forgery. I didn't remember  
10 specifically doing that but that's what I assumed the marks  
11 were from.

12 MR. STOTT: Let's go back on that signature.  
13 There are two holes which appear to be made from some sort  
14 of a needle. Are you saying you made those or is that  
15 something that could have been made much afterwards?

16 A From what you told me, I believe they were made  
17 afterwards. There's also a hole in the red, I notice which  
18 undoubtedly would match a hole that was taken out of the  
19 printed page.

20 Q So the question is, you don't have any memory  
21 of making any of those?

22 A No, I don't have any memory of making those  
23 holes.

24 Q Again, going back, the Samuel Smith signature  
25 was just to be either of the great grandfather or the great

1 great grandfather?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And did you have any particular pattern you  
4 were using or style of signature?

5 A Well, I probably was more or less trying to  
6 imitate the style of the text, the handwriting of the Book  
7 of Amos which again is a poor imitation. Looks like there  
8 are a couple of handwritings here. I guess not. One is  
9 just, I guess, he got faster as he was going along, getting  
10 tired of writing and he enlarged his handwriting.

11 Q Did you do some practicing on another sheet of  
12 paper or something to get the handwriting down?

13 A Probably.

14 Q What ink did you use and how did you put the  
15 signature on it?

16 A It would have been written with a steel nibbed  
17 pen, which could be identified microscopically. This other  
18 undoubtedly is with a quill pen. When I say this other, I  
19 mean the Book of Amos. My forgery is with a steel pen  
20 which I acquired at an art shop in the Union Building at  
21 Utah State University.

22 Q Do you, by chance, still have that?

23 A No. Although, if you brought me a selection of  
24 steel pens I could possibly recognize the type that was  
25 used.

1           Q       Any reason why you used steel rather than a  
2 feather?

3           A       I didn't have a feather and at this time I was  
4 obviously a very poor forger. Steel can be identified from  
5 quill by the furrows that it leaves in the paper and the way  
6 the ink is spread although it, seems like--. Off the record.

7           MR. YENGICH:   No, stay on the record. I'll  
8 stop you.

9           A       I'm just thinking that it seems like one or  
10 both of your handwriting people at the pretrial said they  
11 didn't know how to identify it, but it can easily be  
12 identified microscopically between a steel point and quill.  
13 I can provide you some literature on that, if you want to  
14 see it.

15                   As far as the ink, I got the recipe from a book  
16 that I stole from Utah State University Library. I believe  
17 the book was called Making Ink, or some name like that. It  
18 was, it's a translation from a German edition. It's by  
19 some German guy

20           MR. STOTT:   From the library or the bookstore?

21           A       It's from the library. I removed the metal tag  
22 from the back of the spine so I could walk through their  
23 detectors with it and walked out of the library with it.

24           Q       How long before you made this ink?

25           A       Probably it was just a week before. Just very

1 soon to all of this. No, it would have been before that,  
2 excuse me. It would have been around the time, about a week  
3 before another forgery, which we are not going to get into  
4 right now, I guess. I would guess probably a few months  
5 before, that book listed or had a recipe for an old iron  
6 gall ink.

7 Q Tell us about that book. Did it have a whole  
8 bunch of recipes?

9 A Yes, it did.

10 Q Did it give you the properties of ink?

11 A Didn't give you really the properties, gave  
12 different recipes for different inks as well as the iron  
13 gall ink. It gave recipes for, well, for example in the  
14 19th Century there was a blue ink commonly used, made out of  
15 Persian blue that was made water soluble by soaking in  
16 oxalic acid. There was a recipe for early stamping inks,  
17 not printing inks, however. There were recipes for  
18 different types of colored ink, both before and after the  
19 coal tar inks.

20 Q More than one iron gall?

21 A I'm certain so.

22 Q Any reason why you picked that particular one  
23 for this Samuel Smith?

24 A No. All of the recipes are basically the same.  
25 Although there are a few ingredients that vary. This was

1 just a simple recipe consisting of tannic acid, ferric  
2 sulfate otherwise known as green vitrol and gum arabic. I  
3 don't believe there was any preservative in the ink.  
4 There's a possibility that there was some logwood, although  
5 you would have to check your analysis to find that out.

6 Q Where did you get the ingredients?

7 A What?

8 Q Was it easy to get the ingredients?

9 A Yes. There's a--. That's a good question.  
10 Where did I buy that stuff in Logan.

11 Q How do you go out and look for gum arabic, for  
12 example?

13 A Anyplace that has the other will have that.  
14 It's a common thing. Later when I was buying the  
15 ingredients, I bought them from the chemistry stand in  
16 certain hobby shops. Perfect Chemicals is the brand name.  
17 They carry all those ingredients I mentioned; logwood,  
18 tannic acid, gum arabic, ferric sulfate.

19 Q But you don't remember specifically up in Logan  
20 where you got those?

21 A No. May have been a Grand Central or, it was  
22 probably at Skaggs. I can't say for certain though. I  
23 probably just looked around until I found it. I don't know.  
24 Go up to Logan, see where you can buy it. I don't know.

25 Q When you wrote it down apparently the first

1 time you had some problems and you had to kind of blot it  
2 out?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Is that what you're concerned about, those  
5 lines not appearing there?

6 A The pencil lines on it?

7 Q Yes, where you blotted it out?

8 A Well, the pencil wouldn't have been affected as  
9 much as, although it is affected, isn't it. Which leads me  
10 to believe an eraser was probably also used to blot out the  
11 underlying signature. Pencil, when it's left over the  
12 years is just like water color. New water color and new  
13 pencil comes out fairly easily with water or bleach. Old  
14 pencil doesn't. I didn't make any attempt to restore those  
15 lines or anything though, it doesn't look like.

16 Q Do you remember noticing them or is it  
17 something you didn't notice?

18 A I'm sure that I would have noticed them. It's  
19 obviously a clumsy job.

20 Q After you wrote it, what did you do to the ink  
21 on the page?

22 A I soaked it in hydrogen peroxide probably with  
23 a piece of tissue that was soaked in it, dabbed it on or  
24 piece of cotton or something like that.

25 Q Why did you do that?

1           A       That oxidizes the ink or in other words, turns  
2 it the appropriate brown color.

3           Q       How did you come up with that idea?

4           A       I just thought of it. For a long time  
5 previously I had collected coins and played around with  
6 coins and stuff and also paper money. I noticed that the  
7 greenbacks on paper money could be taken out with bleach.  
8 It changes it to a yellow color. Or in other words, Clorox  
9 takes the blue component out of the green ink. Playing  
10 around in my youth I also discovered that Clorox bleach  
11 removes the yellow element. In other words, turns the green  
12 ink on a greenback blue. Both chemicals together, Clorox  
13 and hydrogen peroxide, fade the green out completely. I  
14 knew that it needed to be oxidized. I had enough knowledge  
15 that hydrogen peroxide is a good oxidizer and so I used that  
16 to do the oxidizing, although I later used other materials  
17 as well as the hydrogen peroxide. That was my first  
18 attempt.

19          Q       So this is basically dabbing?

20          A       This would have been dabbing.

21          Q       Any special drying technique?

22          A       Yes, I would have dabbed since it is in a book,  
23 I did not remove the page.

24          Q       Any drying technique or just air dry?

25          A       You can see on the back how it is kind of

1 wrinkled, that area. You can tell it's been just local.  
2 Incidentally, that will show up on ultraviolet light. You  
3 can see where it spread out

4 MR. BIGGS: Did you know, that?

5 A Yes, I learned that later but I was not  
6 concerned at the time.

7 MR. STOTT: At the time?

8 A Well, I mean, even before the pretrial I knew  
9 about ultraviolet analysis or whatever, but at the time I  
10 did not know that.

11 MR. YENGICH: That's what he meant.

12 A No, I did not know that, I don't think. I may  
13 have. But I remember not thinking that it would undergo any  
14 tough scrutiny

15 MR. BIGGS: Why is that?

16 A I thought that the transcript itself would  
17 receive the scrutiny rather than the book. In fact, there  
18 was a time when no interest was shown in the book. It was  
19 in asking myself well, how can I, where can I say I found  
20 this. I had to come up with an answer and so I thought  
21 well, it is appropriate to find it in a book. You always  
22 hear about old things being found in the leaves of a book or  
23 whatever. I'm getting ahead of myself though.

24 MR. STOTT: Let me ask you this, because it  
25 still has to do with the book. Why did you put it in, the

1 red we talked about? Book of Amos. On the page preceding  
2 the New Testament title, are you aware there's a town named  
3 there?

4 A Before the New Testament title?

5 Q Yes, a separate title page almost from the New  
6 Testament?

7 A Oh, yes, I was aware. This is missing some  
8 books, I presume. Seems like it is.

9 Q There's another title page.

10 A Oh yes, I remember that.

11 MR. YENGICH: Why don't we take a minute and  
12 rest while we look for it.

13 (Discussion held off the record

14 Short break.)

15 MR. STOTT: Where were you looking Mark, now?

16 A I'm looking opposite the concordance page,  
17 title page. On the blank side of the end of the Bible, the  
18 end of Revelations. At the top of the page there's some  
19 pencil handwriting of John Smith. I can't make out the  
20 bottom line. Looks like, I really, I won't even attempt  
21 it. I can make out a lot of the letters but I don't know  
22 how to pronounce it.

23 Q The question is, do you remember that being  
24 there? Is that something you added?

25 A That's something I'm certain I did not add but

1 I can't remember it. I don't think I saw it. It looks,  
2 the way that it goes off the page at the top it may have  
3 been there before the book was trimmed down for this  
4 binding. The FBI, they have a new technique they just  
5 developed where they can identified age of pencil to some  
6 extent. But pencil writing, they have a new thing where  
7 they can tell you. It looks from the bottom line the S is  
8 made into, the old style S is shaped like our F, sort of,  
9 which would make me think that it's an old inscription. I  
10 believe it's genuine. It's probably not a graphite pencil.  
11 It's probably a lead pencil. I don't remember seeing that  
12 before

13 MR. STOTT: I don't have it marked but there  
14 are a few pages in the printed area itself of the Bible  
15 where it looks like someone has tried to write something.  
16 Do you remember ever doing that? I'm talking about right in  
17 the actual Bible. Occasionally you will come across where  
18 there is a little writing.

19 A Yes, I remember seeing that.

20 MR. YENGICH: Remember, we looked at those  
21 during the preliminary hearing.

22 A I remember seeing those. I believe those are  
23 authentic inscriptions I did not do. At least I don't  
24 remember. I know for a fact there are some in here which are  
25 genuine. I do not remember specifically if I added any. I

1 don't believe that I did

2 MR. STOTT: Did you use any of the paper? Did  
3 you take any of the paper out and use it for anything else,  
4 in the Bible?

5 A No, I don't believe so.

6 Q Any particular reason why you put the Anthon  
7 Transcript in Proverbs 91?

8 A Not particularly. There may have, Proverbs  
9 comes before Psalms. No, Psalms, Proverbs. There may have  
10 been an inscription or something. I don't think there was  
11 even that. I don't remember. I don't think there was a  
12 reason. I don't think there is a, oh, I don't believe  
13 there's a reason in particular why I put it there. I think,  
14 in fact, that I was going to put it some other places and  
15 therefor, stained the paper to make it appear like a piece  
16 of paper was stuck in there where the acid bled in other  
17 places in the book.

18 Q Like where?

19 A I can flip through here and find it, see it  
20 possibly.

21 Q Was it Chronicles?

22 A See, this is, the page where it begins, Chapter  
23 9 looks like it is stained. The following, turn the leaf  
24 and the following pages looks like they have a stain on it.  
25 I believe those are manufactured by me.

1 Q And you turn the page and there is still  
2 another one.

3 A Yes. I believe that was made with a simple  
4 iron.

5 Q An iron like you iron your clothes with?

6 A That's right.

7 Q I don't mean to dissuade you from that.

8 A They're probably, yes. See all of this is  
9 original. That's not my doing.

10 MR. YENGICH: What page were you referring to,  
11 for the record?

12 A As far as the reason for Proverbs, I really  
13 don't know there is a reason. There may have been that I  
14 found something in the text which I thought may have  
15 referred to it.

16 Q What I was referring to on the title page, I  
17 think you will see Proverbs 91; are you aware of that?

18 A I don't think it had anything to do with that.

19 Q Is that a coincidence?

20 A I don't think it is. I don't know. I don't  
21 know, what does it say? Proverbs, the use of the Proverbs,  
22 the Proverbs of Solomon, Son of David, King of Israel. Yes,  
23 I wasn't even aware of that, I don't believe.

24 MR. BIGGS: Can I ask a question? We took out  
25 of your house a piece of paper, just a white piece of paper,

1 that had an iron mark on it. You had set an iron down on  
2 the piece of paper.

3 A Yes.

4 Q Did you practice before you did this?

5 A That paper didn't have anything to do with  
6 the-- I really don't know. See, the iron was used to speed  
7 up the oxidation process, turn it brown. That piece of  
8 paper I don't believe would have originated from Logan when  
9 I was practicing because I never would have brought it down  
10 with me. I mean, I would have destroyed that. I don't  
11 remember. See, it may have been something that my wife may  
12 have even done. She may have been ironing something  
13 between paper, I don't know. Although I don't know why she  
14 would do that. It was probably something of my doing but it  
15 didn't have any relation to the Anthon Transcript?

16 (discussion held off the record.)

17 MR. YENGICH: Did you do a Samuel Smith?

18 A It appears to be a Samuel Smith

19 MR. YENGICH: Why don't you write your name  
20 under that

21 MR. STOTT: For the record, Mark wrote us a  
22 Samuel Smith signature.

23 A I'll print it so it's legible.

24 Q Put the date too, would you?

25 A Eleventh?

1 Q Eleventh.

2 MR. YENGICH: It is on a yellow piece of paper  
3 in my notes

4 MR. STOTT: Is there anything else about the  
5 Bible we should know, Mark? I guess I need to ask you a  
6 couple questions I had while you are thinking about that.  
7 For example, is this a Bible you kept at home? Did you show  
8 it to people? I'm talking about before you--

9 A Probably not. I think I probably just had it  
10 in a box. I know if I thought my family or anyone else  
11 would have remembered it, I wouldn't have used it.

12 Q How about Dorie?

13 A No.

14 Q None of your friends?

15 A No.

16 Q Anything else we should know about that?

17 A Well, yes. I can tell you about the Book of  
18 Proverbs where the page was added. I believe I folded the  
19 transcript up. I knew about the width of it when I placed  
20 it in there. When it laid down. I then used a piece of  
21 aluminum foil which I folded to be about approximately the  
22 right size, several layers, put it on there and heated it up  
23 with an iron, placed on it to make it look like the acid  
24 from the paper had browned the leaves of the Bible.

25 Q Will you describe a little more. You've got

1 the aluminum foil next to the paper?

2 A The aluminum foil placed on it.

3 Q On what?

4 A In other words, it's a piece of metal the right

5 size placed on the book, heated with an iron.

6 Q We are not talking about the Anthon Transcript

7 itself, we are talking about just aluminum on the page of

8 the Bible?

9 A That's right.

10 Q That's how you made it brown?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And you heated it up with what?

13 A Probably had another piece of foil on the back

14 of it so it wouldn't bleed through as much as it did on some

15 of those other pages, and then I heated it up with the iron,

16 the family iron like you iron clothes with.

17 Q And that's what made the brown mark?

18 A That's what made the brown mark.

19 Q There wasn't brown marks there?

20 A No.

21 Q You experimented in other sections?

22 A You did huh? How did you heat it up?

23 Q What? You said you experimented in the other

24 sections?

25 A Well, yes, I did a couple. I didn't like how

1 they looked so this is the one that I did. There's also  
2 obviously pieces missing which are on the transcript. I'm  
3 sure we'll get to that.

4 MR. BIGGS: In the insert one of the experts  
5 said it looked like somebody had written over some of the  
6 handwriting, written over the handwriting as if to practice  
7 the technique of the handwriting. Does that have anything  
8 to do with you?

9 A No. If anything--, Oh, I can see like where--  
10 looks like somebody made a mistake. This is in Chapter  
11 Four, Verse Five.

12 MR. YENGICH: Of the insert?

13 A Looks like somebody made a mistake and scraped  
14 off the handwriting and wrote over it or something. I  
15 believe that's all original. I don't believe I copied over  
16 any. Is the ink cracked?

17 MR. STOTT: Yes. He testified it was. Well,  
18 not the signature, not Amos.

19 A I mean, where it's written over.

20 Q No. The writing that was already there is not  
21 cracked. That particular one, I don't know if he looked at  
22 that particular piece you're talking about.

23 MR. YENGICH: What about any of the writing  
24 that's over it? Has he said that ink is cracked?

25 MR. STOTT: No.

1           A       I'm 99 percent I did not copy over any of the  
2 text.

3                   (Discussion held off the record.)

4           MR. YENGICH: Can we take a minute? I need to  
5 talk to him for a second.

6                   (Discussion held off the record.)

7           MR. STOTT: Let's go to the Anthon Transcript.  
8 Can you tell us when it was and how it was that you came up  
9 with this idea?

10           A       I can tell you when it was. It was just days  
11 before the discovery was announced. How it was in some  
12 book, probably B. H. Roberts. I read a description of the  
13 transcript which Charles Anthon gave which does not match  
14 obviously the known character page, which the RLDS Church  
15 has, and I found that to be a pretty neat discovery.

16           Q       What was your thinking from there?

17           A       Well, I probably can't be lucky enough to find  
18 it so why can't I make it.

19           Q       Did you have enough confidence in yourself at  
20 that time to think you could make that big of a document,  
21 that important of one?

22           A       I thought that from what reading I had done as  
23 far as document authentication, that using the proper ink  
24 and oxidizing it the same way time would, that it could be  
25 pulled off.

1           Q       What did you do? You didn't have a long time.  
2 Did you think about what you were going to do and then go  
3 out and do it or did you kind of experiment along the way or  
4 what?

5           A       I had already previously played with the inks.  
6 I had a couple methods of oxidizing the ink. I had recipes  
7 concerning the manufacture of the proper ink. I had  
8 handwriting samples of Joseph Smith which I had acquired  
9 from various books or whatnot, Xerox copies of his letters  
10 or whatnot. I knew that I could obtain the proper paper.  
11 That is 1820ish. Does that answer your question?

12          Q       Okay, and how did you go about doing it? Can  
13 you just kind of give a chronological survey of what you  
14 did?

15          A       Yes, I had a copy of the known Anthon  
16 Transcript which the Reorganized Church possesses.

17          Q       Where did you obtain that?

18          A       I believe I acquired that, again from B. H.  
19 Roberts, made a Xerox of it.

20          Q       Let me ask you this: Before this time, had you  
21 done much studying on the transcripts themselves? Were you  
22 aware of the different versions that were available of the  
23 transcripts?

24          A       No. I became aware of them at this time. He  
25 reminded me of the other versions, meaning Broadside and

1 also a newspaper version. I acquired copies of those from  
2 BYU Studies, a periodical.

3 Q With the intent to further this idea?

4 A Yes. Well, I wanted to make it appear that  
5 those versions, including the RLDS transcript, were taken  
6 from the original version which I was about to produce.  
7 Therefore, I kept certain characteristics and added more  
8 details to this one.

9 Q Can I ask you this, because I've got it here  
10 in my notes. You said BYU Studies. Do you remember what  
11 that article was?

12 A No.

13 Q Was that Kimball's article or does that ring a  
14 bell?

15 A I really can't remember.

16 Q Spring of '82?

17 A Probably. The way to verify that is to-- Oh,  
18 now I remember. I believe I actually got the Xeroxes from  
19 different sources. There's a Broadside in black with gold  
20 lettering. The bottom of which contains some characters.  
21 I believe I got that Xerox from Essentials in Church History  
22 from Joseph Fielding Smith. I remember reading, I am not  
23 sure, I can't say for sure what or if any copies I made from  
24 BYU Studies. I remember doing reading in that as far as  
25 getting some of the history or background or whatever.

1           Q       Do you remember Brodie? Brodie had it in hers.  
2       Were you, at that time, aware of that?

3           A       I think that I read everything I could get my  
4       hands on that dealt with it. I took a day in the library  
5       and just went over everything. All of the different history  
6       books and I can't remember specifically Brodie, but I  
7       probably read that. I remember like in History of the  
8       Church. Comprehensive History, BYU Studies. I went through  
9       that.

10          Q       Were you up to the Utah State Library at that  
11       time?

12          A       Yes, it would have been in the Institute  
13       library.

14          Q       Was it your plan right from the first to do it  
15       in the rows vs. columns?

16          A       Yes. Well, the early description by Anthon it  
17       was that it was in rows, in columns and also there was a  
18       circular device.

19          Q       And you read B. H. Roberts you say?

20          A       Probably. It's undoubtedly quoted in many  
21       sources. I think when I first became aware of that was  
22       probably in B. H. Roberts, his description. He quoted a  
23       couple letters, I believe. I can't remember the dates of  
24       it. A couple letters by Anthon.

25          Q       Were you reading Kirkham back then, do you

1 remember?

2 A I probably looked at Kirkham and the other Book  
3 of Mormon notebooks that dealt with the history and the  
4 Anthon Transcript. I can't remember specifically, again,  
5 reading Kirkham.

6 Q You mentioned just a minute ago you talked  
7 about you wanted to make some changes from the characters  
8 that were in the Whitmer Transcript. What was your idea and  
9 why did you go about it that way?

10 A Well, I wanted it to look like it preceded the  
11 other transcripts. In other words, the other transcripts  
12 were copied from this one or specifically the Whitmer  
13 Transcript. I wanted the chronology, I believe to appear  
14 that the Whitmer Transcript, as you call it, came from this  
15 copy. I think I made it appear as though the Broadside  
16 version and the copy, I believe it was in the newspaper,  
17 called the Prophet, came from not the Whitmer copy or my  
18 copy but another copy that is unknown which originated from  
19 my copy. I believe I tried to make it so that the Whitmer  
20 Transcript came directly from my copy as far as the detailed  
21 changes or whatever.

22 Q How did you go about deciding what to do as far  
23 as making changes in each specific character?

24 A In some of the characters I added details which  
25 did not appear in the others. The way they trace the

1 chronology of that sort of thing and in fact, I had just  
2 recently read a book where they were trying to establish the  
3 different versions of some of the Shakespeare works and it  
4 can be done scientifically as far as details that one has  
5 that the other doesn't. And if the details appear to be  
6 mistakes in transcribing or if they seem to flow with the  
7 natural rhythm of the character or whatever, that's what I  
8 was trying to do.

9 Q What did you have to begin with. You had  
10 probably a Xerox copy from Kirkham or somebody which is not  
11 very plain or clear, is it?

12 A Of the Whitmer.

13 Q Did you blow it up? How were you able to focus  
14 in on each character?

15 A Someplace I remember there were some  
16 engravings of the Whitmer Transcript which I wasn't  
17 satisfied with. I eventually found a photograph which would  
18 tend to be more accurate. There were some spots on the  
19 Whitmer Transcript that I wasn't sure if they were  
20 handwritten or if they were dots or what on the paper. I  
21 made that determination by comparing--

22 MR. YENGICH: Start that answer over again.

23 A I determined from the photographs that I had  
24 what features were actually ink characters and what were  
25 blotches on the paper by comparing various photographs. It

1 may have been that I even had a colored photograph of the  
2 transcript. I can't remember. Let's see, now I think about  
3 it I think there was a color one in, I think one of the  
4 introductory books to Mormonism. I found a color photograph  
5 of the Whitmer and identified that a couple of the small  
6 marks that the engravers put on the transcript that hand  
7 engraved it were actually not true characters or markings.  
8 Don't ask me to show you which ones because I can't

9 MR. STOTT: I don't want to ask you specific  
10 ones but here I'm referring specifically to a BYU Studies  
11 called Sealed in the Book, by Daniel Bachman.

12 A Of course.

13 Q It was written after yours came forward. But  
14 I'm thinking of one that has the Whitmer text. Is that the  
15 one you're talking about?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And you said you had at least two photographs  
18 of that?

19 A Yes, I believe that I had a color photograph of  
20 that I found in a book also.

21 Q You also had access to the Broadside?

22 A That's right. This is the Broadside I'm  
23 referring to. It's figure two.

24 Q And you used that when you were making your  
25 own?

1           A       Right.

2           Q       Which one did you have? What illustrations did  
3 you have? Where did it come from, the one you got on the  
4 Broadside, do you remember?

5           A       What do you mean?

6           Q       Did you have a photograph? Did you just have  
7 it in a book, a Xerox?

8           A       Yes. I made a Xerox off of a book. I am not  
9 sure which book I took that out of. Let's see, I believe  
10 that it was, that Broadside I took from Essentials in  
11 Church History, but I am not certain.

12          Q       And in figure three in the article it has the  
13 version from the Prophet?

14          A       That's right, which very closely relates to the  
15 Broadside.

16          Q       But you were aware there were some differences  
17 in all three of them?

18          A       Yes, I made comparisons and determined there  
19 were differences and I tried to make mine precede the  
20 others.

21          Q       Were you aware at that time about Joseph  
22 Smith's Abraham alphabet or Book of Abraham alphabet?

23          A       Oh, yes. I think. I can't remember if I knew  
24 at that time. I probably did.

25          Q       Were you aware that there is something about

1 some of the characters had been put together or taken apart?

2 A No. I don't know of any comparisons between  
3 the Anthon Transcript and the Egyptian alphabet. If there  
4 are, which I still don't know. You're telling me something  
5 I haven't heard before.

6 Q Did you have any idea at the time though that,  
7 not specifically referring to Anthon but in the alphabet,  
8 the Joseph Smith Egyptian alphabet it appeared that some of  
9 the characters there which later appeared in some of his  
10 other works like in the Book of Abraham or whatever, that it  
11 appeared that it had been a similar nature to what you did.  
12 In other words, there were some characters and there was  
13 some taking apart of characters or adding?

14 A No, I did not use Joseph Smith's Egyptian  
15 alphabet at all. It's pure coincidence. One other thing I  
16 might add, a lot of people, I should say not a lot of  
17 people, several, or some historians have tried to read,  
18 they've tried to read more in to the Anthon Transcript than  
19 is actually there. It's really not a sophisticated forgery.  
20 In fact, I can point out ways in which an historian could  
21 have or should have probably been able to determine that it  
22 was a fraud.

23 Q Can I ask you to do that, Mark? We've got the  
24 original here.

25 A It's through character comparisons.

1 Q Oh, it is something real technical?  
2 MR. YENGICH: You want to take a minute to  
3 look at it?  
4 A Yes. Can I look at it? Hand me the Whitmer  
5 Transcript too.  
6 MR. STOTT: I think you have it still.  
7 MR. YENGICH: Okay, we'll go off the record  
8 and take a minute and look at it.  
9 (Discussion held off the record.)  
10 A I will later identify specifics but the biggest  
11 criticism that I see as far as why the Hofmann Transcript  
12 does not precede the Whitmer Transcript is because looking  
13 at the Whitmer Transcript, the characters are sometimes in a  
14 specific order. In other words, something that looks like a  
15 T, looks something like a backwards L, or it's the character  
16 that follows it, they are in some sort of order. And  
17 because of the speed in which the Hofmann Transcript was  
18 forged, as I've grouped the characters and added detail,  
19 there are occasions where they are, the repeating  
20 characters on the Whitmer Transcript are arranged  
21 differently on the Hofmann Transcript. That may not make  
22 any sense to you but it will when I show you specifics.  
23 Which I believe is the best criticism for the Hofmann  
24 transcript's authenticity. But surprisingly, I have not  
25 heard that criticism raised.

1                   MR. STOTT:   Are you saying that couldn't be  
2 just the opposite, that they couldn't argue that the Whitmer  
3 Transcript came from the Hofmann because of those very  
4 factors?

5                   A       Well, it appears like in the Whitmer Transcript  
6 that repeating characters like a T and that follows a  
7 backwards L and is an H like character or something like  
8 that, and you have that repeating in another place. So  
9 there is consistency in the repetition in the Whitmer  
10 Transcript, although there is not necessarily that  
11 consistency in the Hofmann Transcript. Which, through my  
12 whatever reading I have done in determining chronology, for  
13 example, in the different versions of Shakespeare's  
14 writings, consistency is what is looked for and there are  
15 places where the Whitmer Transcript is more consistent in  
16 reproducing characters than the Hofmann Transcript as far as  
17 reproducing the sequence of characters. Where in places I  
18 have grouped them differently on the so called Hofmann  
19 Transcript

20                   MR. YENGICH:   Were you aware of that at the  
21 time?

22                   A       Somewhat, but I didn't pay--, like I remember  
23 as I was doing it noticing one grouping was different than  
24 another grouping of the identical sequence, but I wasn't  
25 terribly concerned. Like I say, it's, in my opinion, a poor

1       forgeries.

2                   MR. STOTT:     Now, can you show us how you  
3       decided where to start and which letters, how many, how to  
4       make a column?

5               A       Well, what I did is I started with the top  
6       line, left-hand side going to the right of the Whitmer  
7       Transcript and put that to the top left-hand side of the  
8       Hofmann Transcript going vertically. In other words, I  
9       arranged horizontal figures in a vertical fashion.

10           Q       Going from left to right?

11           A       Going from left to right.

12           Q       Any concern that if it was supposedly from some  
13       Hebrew or Semantic document, it would be have been written  
14       from right to left or anything like that enter your mind?

15           A       No, because I wasn't trying to reproduce an  
16       ancient document. I was trying to reproduce a document  
17       written by Joseph Smith. Although that's true, that later  
18       he did learn that characters were written differently or  
19       whatever, I didn't know that at that time.

20           Q       But you believe that is the way he would have  
21       done it?

22           A       That's right.

23           Q       Were you given any information as to how many  
24       columns there were?

25           A       No. I don't believe there's any information.

1 I think it's only, the only information we have concerning  
2 them being in column is in a letter by Anthon and he also  
3 mentioned a circular, I believe he said it resembled an  
4 ancient American calendar stone, a circular device.

5 Q Before we get to that, let me ask you, did you  
6 use all of the characters in the Whitmer, in the Broadside  
7 or what; do you remember?

8 A I believe that all of the characters in the  
9 Whitmer Transcript have a corresponding character on the  
10 Hofmann Transcript. The Broadside and the newspaper  
11 versions do not have as many characters. They are an  
12 abridged version.

13 Q And basically once again, because I'm still a  
14 little confused, to show your document preceded the other  
15 one, what did you do as far as the characters?

16 A For one thing, I added more detail. I also  
17 added spacing.

18 Q Did you add together some of the characters or  
19 did you take apart some of the characters?

20 A I did both. I believe in the Hofmann version  
21 it's drawn with more care and it does not look like it was  
22 taken from the Whitmer Transcript. But rather, the Whitmer  
23 was taken from it because it has more details, the way the  
24 characters are grouped. In fact, I believe that Bachman  
25 gives reasons in his article that you've shown me of why the

1 Hofmann Transcript probably precedes the Whitmer.

2 Q Are these things you were thinking of, at the  
3 time you were deliberately doing?

4 A Yes, I was purposefully adding detail to make  
5 it look as though this preceded the Whitmer rather than vice  
6 verse.

7 Q The Zodiac, the circular figure, where did that  
8 come from?

9 A My imagination. I drew a circular device, I am  
10 not sure why I drew it double circled. I can't remember  
11 what my reasoning is on that as far as if it was because  
12 certain magic symbols are double circles, or if it is  
13 because the second facimile in the Book of Abraham is a  
14 double circle, or if it is because of Hambolt's character,  
15 which Anthon referred to as a double circle. I can't  
16 remember.

17 Q In drawing that, is that freehand or did you  
18 use something to make the circles?

19 A It would have been traced around something. I  
20 can see where I started and where I ended. It appears like  
21 there were two, half circles drawn around something. In  
22 other words, the pen is placed in position A, moved 180  
23 degrees around to position B. Then drawn again starting  
24 from position A around to position B.

25 Q The opposite way?

1           A       I would imagine so. You can tell how the ink  
2       lays on the fibers unless the paper has been so disturbed by  
3       its previous treatment that it cannot be determined.

4           Q       And you say you imagine. You can't remember  
5       exactly how you drew it?

6           A       No, I don't, but I imagine that I started both  
7       half circles at the same point, both the inner and the  
8       outer. No, let's see. The inner circle, it overlaps there.  
9       I don't know, I'm just guessing.

10          Q       You don't remember what you used as far as an  
11       exemplar?

12          A       It may have been a glass or a bottle. I can't  
13       remember.

14          Q       How about your decision to place inside of the  
15       circle, the characters? What was your reasoning there?

16          A       Well, I had a bunch of characters left over  
17       from the Whitmer Transcript I tried to get in and I crammed  
18       them in there. The inner circle is divided into four  
19       sections, horizontally. There were three horizontal lines.  
20       You can see them.

21          Q       Do you remember, did you start with the outside  
22       circle first and fill in and then the inner circle or what?

23          A       That can be determined by comparing the Whitmer  
24       Transcript to this transcript.

25          Q       You don't remember?

1           A       I imagine I started with the outer circle.

2           Q       Do you try to keep them in some sort of order?

3           A       Yes, they are in the same basic sequence as in  
4 the Whitmer Transcript with the last character on the  
5 Whitmer Transcript being in the horizontal rectangle at the  
6 bottom of the circle. It looks something like an up side  
7 down V.

8           Q       I can't remember. Do you remember, are there  
9 any characters that appear maybe in the placard that don't  
10 in the Whitmer or vice versa?

11          A       I may have added but I don't remember, a  
12 character or two. Again, it would have been to make the  
13 Hofmann Transcript look more complete or earlier in  
14 sequence.

15          Q       Were you aware at all of what the scholars felt  
16 about the so-called Whitmer Transcript and the others?  
17 What the feelings were at the time that you made this?

18          A       I don't think there was much feeling about  
19 another transcript except that the known copy does not match  
20 Anthon's description. My opinion was, Anthon's recollection  
21 would probably be more reliable than Martin Harris' or  
22 Joseph Smith's.

23          Q       Let me ask you this: In one of those letters  
24 you talked about from Anthon to Howe or one of the other  
25 people, he says that the characters were like you said, in

1 columns. He called them crooked and distorted. Do you  
2 remember that and did you try to make yours crooked and  
3 distorted?

4 MR. YENGICH: They were crooked.

5 A As far as being crooked or distorted, that's  
6 subjective and probably meaning it is a subjective opinion  
7 and probably something that, I mean, they are crooked. They  
8 are not straight lines. What do you mean by crooked or  
9 distorted?

10 MR. STOTT: I don't know. That's his  
11 description. I wondered if that entered into what you were  
12 trying to do?

13 A Maybe did if that was his description.

14 Q He also said there were crosses, flourishes,  
15 sundry delineations of half moons, stars and other natural  
16 objects. Did you try to include any of that?

17 A Just whatever. Yes, I can see all of those  
18 things you just mentioned. I don't know, maybe other people  
19 can't but again, it's a subjective opinion written years  
20 later. You know, it's just various screwball characters is  
21 what Anthon was saying, and I think that's what you have.

22 Q He said also that they were Greek and Hebrew  
23 letters or inverted Roman letters is the way he described  
24 them.

25 A Yes, I can interpret. It reminds me of an ink

1 blot the test I had recently. I can see all kinds of things  
2 in there.

3 Q My question is, did you just basically try to  
4 take the characters from what you had with the Whitmer or  
5 also try to include some of this description that he gave?

6 A I probably did.

7 MR. YENGICH: Let me take a shot at it.

8 A It's possible that I distorted some of the  
9 characters to make it more closely fit, although I can't say  
10 for sure. I mean, I can't point out instances. There's a  
11 backwards C. Maybe that's a half moon

12 MR. YENGICH: Your primary reliance wasn't on  
13 the description that Bob has read to you; is that right?

14 A No, actually it was since that is the only  
15 description referred to

16 MR. YENGICH: No, I guess my question is--

17 A But as far as purposefully trying to make an up  
18 side down Greek letter or whatever, those characteristics  
19 have already been identified by certain church scholars in  
20 the Whitmer Transcript. The Hofmann Transcript is taken  
21 from that with additional detail.

22 MR. STOTT: Finally, he said the whole thing  
23 ended in a crude delineation of a Zodiac circle.

24 A Yes.

25 Q Is that what you tried to do? Did you have

1 something in mind as far as a Zodiac circle?

2 A I believe only one of his other letters said  
3 that it appeared like it was a calendar stone from the  
4 Humbolt. Yes, I had access to both of those letters and I  
5 made a circle. It could have the appearance of being a  
6 Zodiac circle. But as far as, I mean, I didn't purposefully  
7 add magic characters or make it Zodiac.

8 Q Did you practice this? Did you have a bunch of  
9 sheets of paper and practiced until you got this down?

10 A Actually, I didn't. I wrote it just as I was  
11 doing it. I saw a certain character on the Whitmer  
12 Transcript, I wrote that character on the sheet of paper.  
13 I looked at the next character, I wrote it on the sheet of  
14 paper again trying to add whatever details I imagined may be  
15 missing from the Whitmer version.

16 Q Another question I should have asked just a  
17 couple questions before. While you were doing this or just  
18 before you did it, did you bounce anything off people up at  
19 Utah State, Simmons or other type of people, friends,  
20 scholars, about the characters and about the Anthon  
21 Transcript?

22 A No. I don't believe I would have done that  
23 because my intention was to forge it. Before the discovery  
24 it would have looked a little obvious if before I made the  
25 discovery I started talking to people about the Anthon

1 Transcript. I don't believe I did that at all.

2 Q Tell us about the paper, could you?

3 A The paper is an end page out of a book in the

4 Institute Library at Utah State. I can't remember the title

5 or author. It is Circa 1830, maybe a little bit before.

6 It's a book that deals with biblical history, and if you go

7 up there I'm sure you can find it. It's a large book,

8 obviously.

9 Q Printed in the United States?

10 A Yes. I believe it was United States.

11 Q It's biblical criticism?

12 A No, it's a history, I remember it had a lot of

13 engravings, pictures, whatnots.

14 Q Any special collection?

15 A Just on the stacks, just on the shelf.

16 Q What section would it be in, do you remember?

17 A No. They only have maybe four or five rows of

18 books there and probably only a couple shelves. Well a few

19 shelves with biblical history. Look for an old leather

20 bound, large book.

21 Q Did you take it when you got the idea or did

22 you have this page beforehand?

23 A No. I went looking for the paper and I found

24 it. I wanted proper time period. A large sheet folio,

25 approximately.

1           Q       Had you removed paper before this from things  
2 like that, knew how to do it?

3           A       Yes, I remember doing it on two occasions  
4 beforehand.

5           Q       Do you remember, did you rip it out? Cut it  
6 out?

7           A       Actually that's inaccurate. There were more  
8 occasions than two beforehand. Yes. Probably at this time  
9 I would have used a razor blade to remove it, being careful  
10 to only remove the one blank page and not cut in to the rest  
11 of the book. So I doubt you will find other traces besides  
12 the cut end page. You won't find other traces of razor  
13 blade.

14          Q       Is that the size or did you trim it down?

15          A       It's been trimmed down.

16          Q       All edges?

17          A       Probably all edges.

18          Q       Do you remember what you would have used to  
19 trim it?

20          A       Razor blade. The purpose of trimming is on  
21 leather bound books like they all were back in those days,  
22 the leather stains the paper. I would have removed any  
23 evidence of oiled leather being in contact with the page.

24          Q       Where did you do it at? Where were you? Was  
25 there one place? Did you do it at one time? Did it take

1 several days?

2 A It was complete in a day. When I say complete,  
3 I mean the transcript was written in a day. Not that, you  
4 know, obviously it took longer than that to research it or  
5 whatever. In one day the transcript was written, aged, the  
6 Bible was aged and the transcript was inserted in the book.  
7 All of the forgery work would have been done in a day.

8 Q Where did you do it at?

9 A In my apartment in Logan.

10 Q Where was your wife?

11 A At work.

12 Q What ink did you use for the characters?

13 A Probably the identical recipe as was used for  
14 the Samuel Smith, although it may have been a different  
15 batch. One thing about those inks is every batch is  
16 different, you know. I got to the point where I didn't  
17 measure or make exact measurements or whatever, I just  
18 poured the stuff in and boiled it up.

19 Q Did you use that nibb again? The pen-

20 A Not knowing, I would guess it was the identical  
21 pen as was used for the Samuel Smith. Let me see if I can  
22 make a comparison. On second thought I think there's a good  
23 chance a different pen was used. A different nibb that was  
24 not as stiff as what was used in the Samuel Smith.

25 Q Before you wrote on the paper, did you do

1 anything to it as far as sizing, washing?

2 A I would guess, okay, when I give descriptions  
3 like this it's only on techniques that I've used in the  
4 past. I cannot remember specifically doing it with this.  
5 The way that the ink is bleeding through I would think that  
6 the sizing was removed. Let me start this over.

7 Old paper loses it's sizing. I would say that  
8 when this was written on it had some sizing in it because  
9 the heavy ink marks are not feathered at the edges. On the  
10 other hand, the ink has bled through the paper. Therefore,  
11 I would say that the sizing was removed around the time the  
12 ink was oxidized.

13 Q How would you remove the sizing?

14 A I would guess that the sizing, I would guess I  
15 made no attempt to remove the sizing since old paper is  
16 already missing it. I would guess I dipped it, that is  
17 dipped the paper in a gelatin solution, hot gelatin solution  
18 to add sizing to it so the ink wouldn't run all over the  
19 place. So it wouldn't feather.

20 Q Before you wrote on it you're saying?

21 A Before I wrote on it. I believe that after I  
22 wrote on it, the paper was dipped in a hydrogen peroxide  
23 solution which would have removed--

24 Q Submerged completely?

25 A I believe so. Although it may have been dabbed

1 but even if it was dabbed it was completely wetted. I  
2 believe that it was probably submerged but I don't know. In  
3 other words, put in probably a large like cake pan or glass  
4 pan or something and had hydrogen peroxide poured on it and  
5 then perhaps a piece of tissue or cotton ball or something  
6 to cover it or whatever, depending on how deep the solution  
7 was. I can't remember those details though.

8 Q Was this in relationship to the sizing?

9 A No, the hydrogen peroxide would have washed the  
10 sizing, the gelatin away, most of it.

11 Q So the purpose of that, that is to remove what  
12 you put on?

13 A The purpose for it was more, gelatin was used  
14 in those days as sizing. I had no thought of any  
15 sophisticated test to determine the age of that organic  
16 matter. So in other words, I was not purposefully trying to  
17 remove the gelatin, I don't think. I believe it was removed  
18 in the oxidation process where the ink was oxidized, changed  
19 brown with hydrogen peroxide. See, I remember from the  
20 pretrial--

21 MR. YENGICH: Preliminary hearing.

22 A Excuse me, I keep saying that. The preliminary  
23 hearing, will you change my other references to that too?  
24 There was some comment that the ink may have been different  
25 than the Samuel Smith ink because the cracking didn't occur,

1        whatever. Which might be true. It may have been a  
2        different batch I made. But probably the cracking didn't  
3        appear because the ink was so heavily washed off. In other  
4        words, it soaked for an extended period of time in hydrogen  
5        peroxide. Probably wetted with a cotton ball or tissue I  
6        used to remove the surface of the ink. That's probably why  
7        the cracking isn't seen or whatever.

8                Q        You are right there. They said this Anthon is  
9        different than the others in that the cracking isn't there.

10              A        Yes, but what I'm saying is it may have just  
11        been the way it was treated rather than whatever agent was  
12        added to the ink that produced the cracking. I think that  
13        the ink was similar to the Samuel Smith.

14              Q        You said earlier you thought the gum arabic was  
15        in the ink?

16              A        Yes, that's what I think. I believe this has  
17        gum arabic in it and the cracking was washed away. In the  
18        early days I followed the recipes quite exactly and I am  
19        quite certain that the ink used on the Anthon Transcript had  
20        gum arabic in it.

21              Q        Can you think of any other reason why there  
22        would be a difference between it and the Samuel Smith?

23              A        The main difference that I see is the oxidation  
24        process or in other words, this was dabbed and not very  
25        long. I mean, it's not a very faded brown. This was

1 obviously oxidized for a much longer period of time. It  
2 also received heavier treatment. For example, it had some  
3 organic matter which I can't even tell you for sure what it  
4 is. I would guess that it was perhaps some milk, perhaps a  
5 solution of milk and gelatin that was sprayed from one of  
6 those pump bottle things or whatever, to give it the dotted,  
7 rust-type appearance, rust spots and then it was heated with  
8 an iron.

9 Q You're talking about after you applied the ink?

10 A Yes. In fact, I can tell you it was heated  
11 before it was dried because of the nature of the-- Yes, this  
12 would have been after the ink because I was aging it. You  
13 can see how the paper around this dark spot in the bottom  
14 half kind of the wrinkled as it was being ironed. That  
15 would be evidence the paper was not dry when it was ironed.

16 Q Why did you do both the hydrogen peroxide and  
17 the heat?

18 A Well, I was trying to make it look old. The  
19 hydrogen peroxide made the ink look old. The heat made the  
20 paper look old.

21 Q But the paper was already old.

22 A Yes, but it made it look like it had seen some  
23 use. It was ragged, it was well aged. It is true that it  
24 was genuine paper from that period but I thought it would be  
25 more convincing rather than being pure white to show that it

1 had the high acid content and the problem I thought was also  
2 I wanted it to have high acid content so it would stain the  
3 page in the Bible.

4 Q When you wrote it did it start to stain  
5 through, the ink on the paper itself?

6 A I believe that the gelatin probably kept it  
7 from going through until after the hydrogen peroxide was put  
8 on it, as far as it bleeding through the other side.

9 Q And this hydrogen peroxide, do you remember  
10 where you got it from or what the name of it was?

11 A It would have just been a common 3% solution  
12 you buy at a store for medical purposes.

13 Q Was it clear? Did it have a color or do you  
14 remember?

15 A What?

16 Q Was it clear?

17 A Hydrogen peroxide is clear, yes. It's 3%  
18 diluted with water. It's usually in a brown bottle when you  
19 buy it because the sun breaks it up into water and oxygen.  
20 Ultraviolet light breaks it up.

21 Q You mentioned you sprayed something. I wasn't  
22 quite clear when you did that or what stage?

23 A This would have been after, all of these aging  
24 processes. Would have been after the ink was applied

25 MR. BIGGS: The milk and gelatin?

1           A       Probably, I would guess it was the milk and  
2       gelatin.

3           MR. STOTT:    You say the rust spots?

4           A       Yes, it's obviously over done. I mean, in my  
5       opinion it's a poor forgery even though I think your experts  
6       said it was one of the better. I don't know

7           MR. YENGICH:   You have six minutes before we  
8       have to wrap up on this. Are you close to the end of the  
9       Anthon Transcript?

10          MR. STOTT:    We can finish up on the transcript  
11       but we are not done with the whole subject.

12          MR. YENGICH:   Okay.

13          Q       So when you did it all, did it look pretty well  
14       like it does now, when you finished?

15          A       Yes, I think so. I didn't talk anything about  
16       the glue substance on it.

17          Q       Were you worried at all about when you folded  
18       it up whether or not the marks, the rust marks would seem to  
19       correspond correctly?

20          A       I don't think I was that sophisticated. I  
21       think that, no, not really because I wasn't that concerned  
22       about-- I mean, the argument always can be that well, first  
23       of all people are still uncertain as far as the cause of  
24       rust marks. The theory that I believe, because I've  
25       demonstrated it, is that if you take a book or old piece of

1 paper and caught on it and then oxidize it you get rust  
2 marks. I think the saliva is the cause of the acid and the  
3 argument could always be that it received, it was opened up,  
4 posted or whatever. People look at it, there was a lot of  
5 pollution in the air or whatever, particles of saliva  
6 floating around. Somebody sneezed right there. So I wasn't  
7 that concerned with it.

8 Q Did you purposefully try to just put the iron  
9 down and leave it there for a while vs. over the whole  
10 thing?

11 A Well, the thing is, you're trying to make it  
12 sound like it's more sophisticated than it is. I can't  
13 remember what I did. I don't know that I purposefully tried  
14 to make one area--, well, probably. I mean, it wouldn't  
15 probably bother me to have one area browner than another.  
16 That's fairly common for old documents or whatever. Appears  
17 this area has been handled more.

18 Q Let's talk about the other side.

19 A Okay. That was added just after. That was  
20 added, the recto and the verso written after each other  
21 before any aging or anything. There was still gelatin on  
22 the paper. Gelatin sizing.

23 Q What ink did you use?

24 A It would have been the same ink probably. I  
25 doubt it would have been a different batch. I may have

1 added more water or done something slightly different to the  
2 ink to make it look like a different batch and not written  
3 the same day, but I can't remember. What do your experts  
4 say? I think it's probably the same ink.

5 Q Where did you get the content from?

6 A I made it up. As far as what the words were?

7 Q Yes.

8 A It sounded to me after reading Joseph Smith's  
9 letters to approximate his spelling and grammar, syntax.

10 Q Did you have anything that you kind of used as  
11 an example? For example, in some of Joseph Smith's history  
12 where he talks about the Anthon?

13 A I don't know if I really did. I'm sure I would  
14 have read to see what he had to say about it as far as in  
15 the History of the Church or whatever. But I don't believe  
16 that I found there is any reference where Joseph Smith  
17 described the incident quite like this. Again, I think that  
18 I've heard that, this being actually the argument in favor  
19 of this being a genuine document, you know, that people for  
20 some reason have a hard time believing that someone could  
21 imitate or approximately imitate somebody else's thoughts  
22 or ways of putting things or whatever. I don't think there  
23 was anything. I mean, I just thought what would Joseph  
24 Smith do when he came back and wrote it up. I mean, it  
25 didn't take me a long time to think of it or compose it or

1 anything. I just wrote it down.

2 Q Did you consider style or syntax or anything?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Did you get pretty sophisticated in what you  
5 were thinking of?

6 A Well, I made a study beforehand of, I read  
7 through his letters and stuff. I thought I had a fairly  
8 good idea of how he would put it.

9 Q You were pretty familiar with his writing by  
10 then?

11 A I read a few of his letters. I wasn't as  
12 familiar as I later was but later I became more familiar  
13 because I had better access to Xeroxes or other transcripts  
14 of his writings. The only copies I had at this time would  
15 have been published sources.

16 MR. YENGICH: Unpublished sources?

17 A Published, like in books or something. I knew,  
18 of course, not to go by the printed word so much as the  
19 photographs of his actual letters since there's always  
20 editing involved. People won't have Joseph Smith spelling  
21 city with two Ts.

22 MR. STOTT: I was going to ask you what about  
23 the spelling.

24 A It would have been from photocopies of his  
25 letters.

1                   MR. YENGICH:   And that seems like it would be  
2 a good place for us to stop.   Okay, a couple things.   One of  
3 the things we did the first time, are you satisfied with his  
4 answers as far as what you have been through today?

5                   MR. STOTT:   We are satisfied in the amount of  
6 information he's given us.

7                   MR. YENGICH:   Well, that is the phrase we used  
8 in the document.   Are you satisfied, pursuant to the  
9 agreement, up through today?

10                  MR. STOTT:   Yes.   I think we'll want to come  
11 back and ask more questions.

12                  MR. BIGGS:   That's what I wanted to say based  
13 upon reflection.

14                  MR. YENGICH:   I'm just saying you're  
15 satisfied.   Pursuant to the agreement, today?

16                  MR. BIGGS:   Yes.

17                  WHEREUPON, the meeting was concluded at the hour of  
18 4:30 p. m.

19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

INTERVIEWS  
CASE OF STATE VS. HOFMANN

FEBRUARY 11, 1987 through MAY 15, 1987

(FEBRUARY 17, 1987)

COPY

1 FEBRUARY 17, 1987, 9:50 A.M.

2 PRESENT: Robert Stott, Esq., David Biggs, Esq.

3 Ronald Yengich, Esq.

4 MR. YENGICH: Present for the interview of Mark  
5 Hofmann are Robert Stott, David Biggs, Mark Hofmann, Ron  
6 Yengich, attorney for Mark Hofmann and the lovely and  
7 talented, Penny Abbott.

8 MR. STOTT: Mark, let's go back to where we  
9 left off. We were talking about the Joseph Smith statement  
10 on the reverse side of the Anthon Transcript and for  
11 continuity, maybe we'll ask a few questions we might have  
12 asked last time but to get us into the thing.

13 I asked you about the handwriting itself. Were  
14 you able to--, where did you go as far as to find some  
15 examples of Joseph Smith's writing?

16 A Published sources. No private Xeroxes or  
17 anything like that. The one item I remember specifically  
18 using was a Xerox of a, or rather a photograph and article  
19 by Dean Jesse in BYU Studies of probably a four or five page  
20 letter to his wife. I believe it was about 1832 was the  
21 date of the letter. That was the primary source.

22 Q At that time you hadn't collected any of  
23 Joseph Smith's handwriting yourself then?

24 A I had a few Xeroxes or, in fact, I had some  
25 actual signatures at that time on two Kirkland Bank Notes,

1 as I remember. Probably a 5 and 10 dollar denomination.

2 Q And those were, as far as you know, authentic?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Other than that, you didn't have anything else  
5 of actual Joseph Smith writing then?

6 A No, I had Xeroxes like I say, I accumulated  
7 from published sources. When I say authentic signatures on  
8 the Kirkland Notes, I mean they were genuine Kirkland Notes.  
9 Joseph Smith probably did not personally sign the majority  
10 of those but had someone sign his name, proxy.

11 Q It's not something you had, it's something that  
12 was there when you got the Notes?

13 A Correct, with most likely proxy signatures of  
14 Joseph Smith.

15 Q I asked you before if you gave, and we are just  
16 talking about the Anthon, if you gave consideration before  
17 you actually wrote out, if you thought a lot about the  
18 style, about the syntax, about the spelling, those kinds of  
19 things?

20 A I think I was familiar enough with the syntax  
21 that it really didn't take much thinking on my part, you  
22 know, to write it out. And even the spelling, I would say  
23 probably in, again I'm just guessing but I would say  
24 probably in less than half an hour I composed it and had the  
25 spelling.

1           Q       Let me ask you about the some of the spelling  
2 words like K-a-r-a-k-t-o-r-s. Do you remember why you  
3 misspelled it? Where you came up with that idea?

4           A       Some of the words I believe that I had seen in  
5 other sources misspelled the same way. Others, knowing that  
6 Joseph Smith spelled phonetically and also inconsistently.  
7 In other words, in his letters, some words are spelled three  
8 or four different ways. Knowing that, I spelled them the  
9 way I did just because I thought that's how Joseph Smith  
10 likely would have spelled them.

11          Q       One of the words that several people have  
12 commented on was the word city, C-i-t-t-i. Do you remember  
13 that word specifically coming from a particular source?

14          A       I wouldn't be surprised if I saw an authentic  
15 source of Joseph Smith spelling it that way but I don't  
16 remember seeing that. It seems like a not inconsistent way  
17 for him to spell.

18          Q       How is your own spelling?

19          A       Not terribly good, actually.

20          Q       Could any of these be just your own misspelling  
21 or were they purposeful misspellings?

22          A       No, I think that, no. For one thing if I was  
23 concerned enough about the spelling I would use the  
24 dictionary, the 19th Century dictionary to verify the  
25 appropriate way they had spelling in those days.

1           Q       Did you have a 19th Century dictionary back  
2 then?

3           A       No, but I had access to one at a library.

4           Q       The wording itself, again is that something  
5 that you got a particular source to guide you as to the  
6 wording or is it--, how did that develop?

7           A       No, actually I would say both with the spelling  
8 and with the syntax or the wording, that I didn't really  
9 rely on any particular source rather than just the general  
10 knowledge or feeling I had, how Joseph Smith would write  
11 something, and just trying to imitate that or try to make it  
12 sound like something that I would read that Joseph Smith has  
13 written.

14          Q       I think you mentioned that you first, about a  
15 week earlier, got involved because of reading perhaps B. H.  
16 Roberts, on the subject?

17          A       Right.

18          Q       Prior to that time did you know very much about  
19 this Anthon thing? Were you very knowledgeable about it?

20          A       No, I wouldn't say very knowledgeable. I knew  
21 about it. It's fairly common episode, I guess in church  
22 history, but I hadn't paid particular attention to it, no.

23          Q       So what you're saying is that you kind of just  
24 thought to yourself, what would have Joseph Smith said after  
25 Martin Harris came back and related, what he would have put

1 down?

2 A Yes. Well, the whole idea of making a forgery  
3 is trying to make it as realistic as possible so it seems  
4 right. Those are the words that seemed right to me as far  
5 as Joseph Smith's reaction in those days.

6 Q The reference to Isaiah Prophecy, is that  
7 something you felt had to be in there? Should be in there?

8 A Well, as far as had to be there, I thought that  
9 Joseph Smith at that time was relating this whole experience  
10 to a prophecy, so I thought it was an appropriate reference.

11 Q The handwriting, did you have to practice that  
12 much or were you already practiced with Joseph Smith's  
13 handwriting?

14 A It didn't take much practice, I don't think.  
15 In fact, the whole transcript was written, probably that  
16 section composed and written on both sides, the paper aged  
17 the way it is and the ink all in one day. As far as my  
18 previous experience with Joseph Smith, I had previously made  
19 attempts to imitate his handwriting.

20 Q In doing this, and we are talking again here  
21 just about the Anthon, and that period of time, had you read  
22 any particular books on handwriting or calligraphy or--?

23 A At this time, I don't remember having read any  
24 specifically on autograph collecting or collecting. I don't  
25 remember having read anything about the calligraphy either.

1 I think I was, just having seen his handwriting, thinking to  
2 myself I can do that, and then doing it.

3 Q Besides Joseph Smith, had you, during this time  
4 or prior to it, copied other people's handwriting?

5 A To some limited extent, I have.

6 Q Did you take any classes during this time, any  
7 handwriting or calligraphy classes?

8 A No. Now, I later took a class, which I think,  
9 in fact, you're aware of, out in Sandy that didn't really  
10 contribute anything. When I say out in Sandy, I mean when I  
11 lived in Sandy, a lady in our ward was teaching it, which  
12 didn't really contribute at all to my forging skills. It  
13 was a certain form of lettering that we were taught that I  
14 never employed in any forgeries.

15 Q Is this skill in copying handwriting, is that  
16 something that you had to work at or is that something that  
17 came easy to you? Can you explain it?

18 A Although I really don't consider myself an  
19 artistic person, I think I have the ability to look at  
20 handwriting and copy it. I don't think it is any certain  
21 talent or other people, I think can do the same thing.  
22 Although I haven't conducted any surveys on the matter.  
23 Probably to some extent it is a talent only insofar as I  
24 have developed it through practice, but I wouldn't say that  
25 I was born or had a natural talent for copying handwriting.

1           Q     Did you think about, when you were doing this  
2 or after you did it, whether or not the handwriting was  
3 maybe too good for Joseph Smith at this early age or was too  
4 clear or anything like that? Did anything like that enter  
5 your mind?

6           A     No. My experience in looking at Joseph Smith's  
7 handwriting throughout his life was that it didn't really  
8 change very much. Which, incidentally, is true of most  
9 semi-literate people.

10           MR. YENGICH: For example?

11           A     Daniel Boone, which I'm sure we'll talk about  
12 some day, his handwriting is the same at a young age as when  
13 he is an old man.

14           MR. BIGGS: Bridger?

15           A     Well, Bridger, he has probably remained the  
16 same too.

17           MR. STOTT: Did you do anything-- I guess what  
18 I'm getting at, did you do anything to, for example, let  
19 me--

20           A     It probably is more crude than some of his  
21 later writings, especially since his later writings a lot of  
22 them are, I shouldn't say a lot but some of them are most  
23 likely copies that he put in his own handwriting after  
24 dictating to a scribe. I say that only because in places  
25 he's a very good speller. Also in business letters where he

1 is trying to make an impression, I think he either asked  
2 somebody else how to spell or else took his time more. For  
3 example, the 1825 letter forgery to Josiah Stool probably is  
4 better done than something quick like this that he's just  
5 scribbled out with numerous crossings out and that sort of  
6 thing.

7 Q Are you familiar with this article by Backman  
8 that came out after?

9 A Yes, I've read that.

10 Q He quotes on page 331 some apparent references  
11 to Dean Jesse talking about the Joseph Smith portion of it.

12 MR. YENGICH: I don't think the record will be  
13 clear. You mean after the Anthon Transcript was released?

14 MR. STOTT: Right. This is an article that  
15 appeared in BYU Studies and, you know what, I don't have the  
16 date but it came out after the Anthon Transcript was brought  
17 forth and he talked about unique separation of words at the  
18 end of a line. Was that something you were aware of  
19 consciously trying to do?

20 A Oh, yes. Like I say, I was trying to imitate  
21 his style. That's something Joseph Smith commonly did  
22 without any regard to where a syllable ends or begins or  
23 anything. When he ran out of room he put a dash there and  
24 then on the left-hand side where he began the word again, he  
25 put what looks like an equal sign, two dashes and continued

1 where he left off.

2 Q That's something you had observed?

3 A Yes, I knew that Joseph Smith did that.

4 Q Also says there was a characteristic formation  
5 of certain letters and words. I don't know what he means by  
6 that.

7 A In other words, the shape of the letters are  
8 the same as Joseph Smith's shaping. The words also, I mean,  
9 it's supposed to be a forgery of Joseph Smith. That's what  
10 it's intended to be so I don't think it's surprising that it  
11 looks like his handwriting.

12 MR. YENGICH: May I interrupt? I think Bob's  
13 question is did you consciously take that into account?

14 A Yes, I took the shape of the letters and the  
15 formation of the words, also the breaking up of the words  
16 into account.

17 MR. STOTT: Are there any particular ones you  
18 can remember that was very, was of special concern to you on  
19 that document?

20 A Special concern as far as how to form it or how  
21 to write it?

22 Q Yes, as exemplifying a particular form that  
23 Joseph Smith would do?

24 A Not that I remember. I remember only looking  
25 at formation of the letters and imitating them. I think

1       that every letter that appears on this, I have seen copies  
2       of in his handwriting so there wasn't any guesswork.

3               Q       It also says here there are also distinctive  
4       pen lifts?

5               A       Yes.

6               Q       Was that something that you were conscious of?

7               A       Yes, that means that he didn't always put his  
8       pen down at the beginning of a word and lift it up at the  
9       end. There were pen lifts in between letters, which is  
10       something I knew that he did and something that I imitated.

11               (Discussion held off the record.)

12              Q       Getting back to the statement by Joseph Smith,  
13       was that something you felt you had to put on the letter?  
14       Was that from a historical source that would have appeared  
15       on the same document that the characters were on?

16              A       It's not inconsistent to have it on there, to  
17       have some docketing. Also lends some veracity to the other  
18       side since it has, since the other side has no handwriting  
19       or any way to verify it, meaning handwriting can be used to  
20       show the authorship. Whereas the other side could be from a  
21       number of different people. People could have written it  
22       besides Joseph Smith. Could have been copied from any  
23       number of sources and therefore much less valuable, in my  
24       opinion, the docket on the reverse.

25              Q       Did you also see it as adding value to the

1 document, in fact, it was Joseph Smith's writing?

2 A Yes, because it would be an interesting  
3 document without that docket because there would be no way  
4 of verifying it, you know. Like I say, could have been any  
5 early church member that made an attempt to copy the  
6 transcript, or therefore, much less valuable.

7 MR. BIGGS: Same technique you used on the  
8 oath?

9 MR. YENGICH: We're getting ahead of ourselves  
10 here.

11 A No. We'll get in to that though.

12 MR. STOTT: Let's go back to the characters,  
13 if we can, because we had some questions last week. You  
14 were going to do some looking at a couple things before we  
15 got in to that.

16 MR. YENGICH: You'd better mark these so we  
17 can make reference to them.

18 MR. STOTT: Yes.

19 A Do you have another copy? We'll need an  
20 unmarked one that isn't folded.

21 MR. STOTT: No, we don't have another copy.

22 A I also know how to iron folds out of paper.

23 MR. STOTT: Here's one.

24 A That's folded too, although it is probably more  
25 clear.

1           Q     Well, I don't know if you can remember much  
2     about this Backman article, but in it, his thesis basically  
3     is that by minute comparing of the characters of your text  
4     with the characters on the Whitmer text and the Broadside  
5     text and the newspaper text or Placard text, he has  
6     determined that yours came first.

7           A     Right.

8           Q     You mentioned that was your whole purpose the  
9     other day?

10          A     Right. I wanted it to come first, that's how I  
11     forged it.

12          Q     But he's saying here that some of the figures  
13     appearing on your text do not appear on the Whitmer text but  
14     appear on the two published texts. Was that something you  
15     were aware of and was that something you purposely did?

16          A     Yes, I'm aware of that fact. It's something I  
17     purposefully did.

18          Q     Do you remember which ones those would be?

19          A     I can't point them out at this point without  
20     having a copy of the Broadside and then it may still take me  
21     a while unless he verifies or unless he indicates there.  
22     Just reading the Backman article, although my mind really  
23     doesn't remember specifically, it seems to me these  
24     characters between the vertical rectangle, as he calls it,  
25     and the circle on the righthand side of the page. I

1 remember that again, trying to make this, my transcript, the  
2 oldest or the earliest, incorporating features from the  
3 other versions of the transcript to try to predate, to have  
4 my transcript predate the others.

5 Q You were going to show us or try to explain for  
6 the record some points in reference to your text that you  
7 felt a close examination by other people would show that it  
8 is a copy or forged document. What would those be?

9 A Okay, I will show one example, although there  
10 are additional ones that I remember.

11 Q What you have is a piece of paper showing the  
12 Whitmer Transcript?

13 A That's right. I now show you on the Whitmer  
14 Transcript, the Xerox of the transcript on the 3rd and 4th  
15 lines there are four, there's a sequence of four identical  
16 characters beginning on the 3rd line probably the 3rd  
17 character. It looks like a domino with a D. Then it has a  
18 character that looks something like a V with a dot in the  
19 middle, something that looks like a T and something that  
20 looks like an up side down V.

21 MR. YENGICH: Those are circled in blue on the  
22 paper you have?

23 A I have those circled and I will now circle --

24 MR. STOTT: That's four characters, is that  
25 correct, in this combination you're talking about?

1 MR. YENGICH: Did you get that? He's circling  
2 them in red ink.

3 A I'm circling them in red ink. Those characters  
4 are identical to that sequence in the row on the Whitmer  
5 Transcript and shows some consistency between those  
6 sequences in the Whitmer Transcript

7 MR. STOTT: Is that something you believe  
8 should be found in a real, in something that's copied of a  
9 real nature?

10 A I wouldn't be surprised, probably to find a  
11 genuine language that has repetitive characters such as  
12 that. For example, in English if somebody didn't know the  
13 language would look at a book, he would probably see the  
14 word 'the', those three letters, t-h-e, repeated several  
15 times, as well as other common words.

16 MR. YENGICH: I've marked the Whitmer text  
17 EXHIBIT A and I'll put 2-17-87.

18 A Now let me show you those same characters as I  
19 copied them on the so-called Hofmann Transcript. I'll  
20 circle these also in red.

21 MR. STOTT: Can you describe for us, for the  
22 record, which columns?

23 A Yes, they are in the 3rd and 4th columns from  
24 the left. Okay, now I will-- Shall I copy to show you how I  
25 did it?

1 MR. YENGICH: Just describe how you did it.

2 A They began up at the top, running vertically  
3 downward with the domino D.

4 MR. STOTT: It would be the, looks like the  
5 beginning with the 2nd character on the 3rd column?

6 A 2nd character on the 3rd column, that's  
7 correct. Unless you count that. Right, 2nd one down,  
8 beginning with the domino D. And below that is the V-type  
9 of character with the dot in it and then the T which is a  
10 horizontal line under the V I just described, with a line to  
11 the left of it and then the up side down V.

12 Now remember, what I was trying to do was to  
13 make it seem like the Whitmer Transcript was copied from  
14 this, from my transcript. And therefore, in a clumsy effort  
15 to make that transcription, the D was drawn, the V,  
16 something that looked like the T and then the up side down  
17 V.

18 Now in the 4th column the same characters  
19 appear but in a different order. The top is the domino D  
20 again, then what appears to be the V with, instead of a  
21 solid dot it's a circle, small circle in the middle of that  
22 V. Then what looks like a T which is the top of the T,  
23 rather than being horizontal it is, in the 3rd column is at  
24 a diagonal angle with the line again at an angle down the  
25 middle, pointing to a dot with an up side down V underneath

1 it.

2 Here in the 3rd column the dot is to the side of  
3 the, horizontal of the T. Here it is, in the 4th column it  
4 is below, beneath the T. As you can see there's consistency  
5 in the sequence of those four characters in the Whitmer  
6 Transcript which does not appear in the Hofmann Transcript.

7 Now, if you pretend like you are copying the  
8 Hofmann Transcript making the Whitmer Transcript you would  
9 probably, since that's an inconsistency in the Hofmann  
10 Transcript, you would probably, in making the Whitmer  
11 Transcript, copy those differently since they are different  
12 on the Hofmann Transcript.

13 In other words, on the other hand, we see a  
14 consistency in the Whitmer Transcript which is not on the  
15 Hofmann Transcript which would lead someone that's doing a  
16 critical analysis of those two transcripts to believe that  
17 the Whitmer Transcript predates the Hofmann Transcript.

18 This one is one example. There are others that I  
19 remember seeing where there's consistency in the sequence on  
20 the Whitmer Transcript which does not appear on the Hofmann  
21 Transcript.

22 MR. STOTT: Now, this lack of consistency is  
23 something that apparently you, apparently slipped by you?

24 A Yes. I wasn't careful when I did that,  
25 obviously. It is something that, that is the sort of thing

1 that's used by people when they analyze the chronology of  
2 documents to determine that chronology. The order of the  
3 documents. I think I described, last time we met, a later  
4 reading I did of where they were trying to put into a  
5 chronological order some of the Shakespeare's printed  
6 manuscript texts. In my opinion, this is the greatest flaw<sup>in</sup>  
7 in the Hofmann transcript and one that would indicate that  
8 it's a forgery, since it has other characteristics which  
9 show that it is supposed to predate the Whitmer and  
10 characteristics that show that it doesn't. That  
11 inconsistency would, I believe, lead people to believe that  
12 the Hofmann Transcript is a fraud

13 MR. STOTT: Now, on these characters that you  
14 just had reference to, the A and T and D, on your text there  
15 appears to be some flourishes added.

16 A Yes.

17 Q What was the purpose for changing that?

18 A The reason for adding the details or the  
19 flourishes would be to make the Hofmann Transcript look like  
20 it predates the Whitmer Transcript. In other words, if  
21 another person such as Joseph Smith were copying the Hofmann  
22 Transcript to make a quick copy, which is now the Whitmer  
23 Transcript, it would not be surprising if he did not write  
24 it as carefully and with as much detail as appears on the  
25 Hofmann Transcript. In other words, if someone were copying

1 the Whitmer Transcript they would probably not add detail  
2 but only retain what is there or, in other words, a copy is  
3 usually no better than the original as far as the detail.  
4 If anything it lacks the detail that the original does.

5 Q Where did you come up with these additions?  
6 Just out of your head or what?

7 A Yes. I just imagined what a character would be  
8 that would be copied to look like a character that appears  
9 on the Whitmer Transcript. In other words, most of the  
10 detail is not completely new, but where there just appears  
11 to be a small flourish, for example, on the Whitmer  
12 Transcript, I made into a very noticeable flourish. For  
13 example, I'm looking at the V with the dot in it, there is a  
14 slight flourish there, as you call it.

15 Q In the Whitmer Transcript?

16 A In the Whitmer Transcript, but nothing like  
17 I've made it in the Hofmann Transcript.

18 Q But that's one of the things you were trying to  
19 do is to make yours plainer? Bolder? Crisper?

20 A The main thing I was trying to do is to make it  
21 look earlier and it is also, it is obviously drawn much more  
22 carefully than the Whitmer Transcript as I thought Joseph  
23 Smith might do on a transcript that was being sent to the  
24 learned professors in the east. I thought that it would not  
25 be unusual for him to take more than his ordinary care in

1 producing it.

2 Q In the statement by Joseph Smith you put the  
3 words "Diligently Copied". Did you tie that in somehow with  
4 what you were doing with the characters?

5 A Yes. I interpreted that to mean they were  
6 drawn carefully and I think that they were drawn carefully.

7 Q More carefully than the Whitmer?

8 A Yes. I would say that they are definitely  
9 drawn more carefully than the Whitmer Transcript. It wasn't  
10 unusual for Joseph Smith, in copying materials or even  
11 writing it originally, to be very sloppy about it.

12 Q Was it your purpose to make yours appear more  
13 diligently copied than the Whitmer?

14 A Yes. For a number of reasons besides which I  
15 described. I knew that several people had tried to  
16 translate or get some meaning out of the characters in the  
17 Whitmer Transcript. I knew that from my studies in  
18 preparation for the forgery. I also believe that people can  
19 get about any meaning they want to out of anything and I  
20 thought it would be fun to give them a little extra work.

21 (Discussion held off the record. )

22 MR. STOTT: Yes. Let me ask you this: A  
23 comment you made. Have you thought about it or did you  
24 think about it at that time, about whether or not the  
25 Whitmer Transcript really was the one that supposedly Martin

1 Harris had or did you think there was, there really was  
2 another one and that's what you were producing, one that  
3 really should be in existence or is in existence?

4 A I, of course, had no way of knowing but since  
5 Anthon's Transcription does not match the Whitmer  
6 Transcript, I wouldn't be surprised if another one was in  
7 existence and was actually shown to, rather than just a  
8 small scrap of paper, I wouldn't be surprised if something  
9 additional would have been shown to Anthon. Besides which  
10 Martin Harris, in my opinion, treated it, let's say in his  
11 later life, objects that had significance and meaning with  
12 Joseph Smith, almost as a realics. I did not imagine that a  
13 transcript would, of his property, that he would have given  
14 even to a friend such as David Whitmer who at that time,  
15 incidentally, was not a close friend.

16 Q One last thing. Did it ever concern you that  
17 some day they might find the real one, if it was out there?

18 A Not really. I didn't think that they would  
19 find one and if they did, it would just make it all the more  
20 interesting. I was confident, in other words, that mine  
21 would not be detected as a fraud.

22 Q Let's go onto, you've got the document made,  
23 you have the Bible, what did you do?

24 A Before we get in to that, let me just make a  
25 couple corrections from what we were talking about the last

1 time. Not really corrections, just addendum.

2 As I remember, I do not believe that I saw the  
3 name John Smith opposite the concordance, as you pointed out  
4 to me. And as I said, I believe that since the last two  
5 letters of the word Smith go off of the page, that it was  
6 probably added before the book was bound and trimmed like it  
7 is, which could be verified by looking under the gild on the  
8 edge of the book, which you've probably done. Have you  
9 verified if that was there before the gild was put on?

10 MR. STOTT: I'm not sure if someone has looked  
11 at that particular part of it.

12 A As far as the word beneath the name, it looks  
13 to me like it could be a Welsh name. Presumably of the town  
14 where John Smith lived.

15 MR. YENGICH: Time out.

16 (Short break in the proceedings.)

17 (Discussion held off the record.)

18 MR. YENGICH: We're back again.

19 MR. STOTT: Mark, you've got the document and  
20 you have the book. Tell us what you did next.

21 A I glued it in. Let's see, I think I described  
22 last time how I toned the page, made a little brown  
23 rectangle there by the spine. You will probably want to  
24 know what the glue was.

25 MR. YENGICH: I'm sure they shall. Why don't

1     you tell them?

2             A       It was some charcoal ground up with a wheat  
3     paste which I found was not terribly sticky, and so, believe  
4     it or not, I added a couple drops of Elmer's Glue to it.

5             Q       What kind of Elmer's Glue? The real stuff?

6             A       Not the carpenters but the school stuff.

7             MR. BIGGS:   The white stuff?

8             A       Yes, the white glue. Let's see, they have a  
9     type which is water soluble. Comes off with water. This is  
10    not that kind.

11            MR. YENGICH:   Tell them where you got the  
12    Elmer's Glue.

13            A       I don't know, just had it.

14            MR. YENGICH:   Did you have it at home?

15            A       Yes. Just a regular bottle with the orange  
16    top.

17            MR. YENGICH:   With the little orange cap on  
18    it?

19            A       Yes, just regular Elmer's Glue.

20            MR. YENGICH:   That a student might use?

21            A       You don't have a spectroscopic report on that  
22    glue, I presume?

23            MR. YENGICH:   But it is the type glue a  
24    student would use?

25            A       Yes, I used it to glue paper together.

1 MR. STOTT: How much glue did you put in?

2 A Whatever is on the Bible and on the page is all  
3 there was that was put in and I don't think I mixed up much  
4 more than that, just a small amount.

5 Q Where did you get the idea for this charcoal  
6 and wheat paste?

7 A I thought to myself, I need to glue this in  
8 here, what looks like old glue. I had the idea of getting  
9 an old book and soaking the end page of the spine where it's  
10 glued down and retrieving some glue that way, which I  
11 figured was too much work. I was in a hurry, I wanted to  
12 get this thing done that day

13 MR. BIGGS: Why?

14 A I don't know. It's just, I'm always rather  
15 impatient. That's probably part of my personality. I  
16 wanted to get it done before Dorie came home from work, my  
17 wife. So any way, just sticking Elmer's Glue on there or  
18 rubber cement didn't seem to quite do it so I thought they  
19 usually didn't use white glue back then. I've seen them  
20 using carpentry work, black carpentry work glue. I haven't  
21 seen it in book binding but I'm told they actually do use  
22 black glue on occasion. In fact, as I remember Jeff  
23 Simmons, the archivist at Utah State University, thought  
24 that it was book binders glue. I don't know, it just seemed  
25 better than having white glue and was-- In fact, what I did

1 was I lit a book match, let it burn down, broke off the tip  
2 of it and ground up the match. That was my charcoal and  
3 mortar and pestle. Scraped it off on a piece of paper where  
4 I added some salt and flour paste.

5 MR. STOTT: Just salt and flour basically was  
6 the paste?

7 A Yes. I believe it was wholewheat flour with  
8 salt and water. I mixed it around with, probably used a  
9 toothpick or something, found that it wasn't particularly  
10 sticky and added a couple drops of glue to it, of Elmer's  
11 Glue. I then folded the document up. This is, of course  
12 after it was all aged like I liked it and everything.

13 MR. STOTT: I think we might have asked you  
14 before and I can't remember but specifically did you use the  
15 iron not only on the book but also on the document?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Any particular rhyme or reason to the number of  
18 folds?

19 A No, I just wanted to fold it up so you could  
20 stick it in there. You know, half fold doesn't do it  
21 because it would have been about the same width as the book.  
22 So I folded it again. It's also not unusual for documents  
23 to be folded like that, particularly legal documents,  
24 although I guess I didn't know that at the time or at least  
25 not as much as I later did with my working with documents.

1 Any way, I folded it up. I stuck some glue on the edge of  
2 it and stuck it in the book, over the brown portion of the  
3 book.

4 Q When you say you stuck some on the edges, was  
5 that to glue it together or glue it inside the book?

6 A My purpose originally was to stick it in the  
7 book, but I ended up sticking the transcript itself together  
8 better than anything. But it also stuck it on the book. In  
9 fact, as I see, I don't believe the glue even went all the  
10 way down except maybe two or three inches inside the book.  
11 So I think that I probably told people that I suspected the  
12 glue was there to glue the transcript maybe on a wall or  
13 something rather than to actually stick it in the book. And  
14 then later the glue seeped on to the book and held it fast

15 MR. STOTT: Looking at the transcript on the  
16 edges, narrow portion, there appears to be some black or  
17 brown stain. Did you put the glue all along? Did you smear  
18 it along or just in spots?

19 A I believe it went all the way along the edge.  
20 I believe actually when I put it on I put it along the top  
21 edge and then when it folded and came undone, it stuck to  
22 the bottom. What I mean was I put it along the top and when  
23 it was still wet it was folded and then it came undone, when  
24 it was dissected.

25 Q Did you just fold the document in half with the

1 two edges together where the glue was and then fold it  
2 again?

3 A Say that again.

4 Q With the glue on one of the edges did you just  
5 fold the document right in half and glue it together?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And then just folded it in half again?

8 A Yes, and when it was wet I stuck it in the  
9 Bible and shut the book. And it actually, later when it  
10 dried it stuck both pages together, even though I don't see  
11 any evidence of the glue on the facing page, both pages were  
12 actually, although evidently not tightly, stuck together  
13 with the transcript in between.

14 Q You left it in there, your wife came home. Did  
15 you say anything to your wife?

16 A No. I cleaned everything up and what all,  
17 poured the ink down the sink or whatever I did with it. And  
18 I didn't say a word to her.

19 Q When was it that you supposedly found it?

20 A The next day. My wife was home. I wanted her  
21 to alibi for me or be a witness to its discovery. I believe  
22 it was the next day, may have been the day after, I can't  
23 say for sure. A day or two. We were in the front room  
24 there of our apartment. Have you been to the apartment by  
25 chance, to my Logan apartment?

1 Q No, I haven't.

2 A And we were flipping through it and my wife  
3 said something to the effect of, I said something like,  
4 these pages are stuck together, or something, and then she  
5 was kind of looking down it, or up it and said it looks like  
6 there's a piece of paper in there. And I kind of looked  
7 down and said, oh yes, I think you're right. And pulling  
8 the pages a part, probably the top left hand page came off  
9 first like there is not even glue on there.

10 Q Did you take it out?

11 A No, it was still stuck in the book on the one  
12 page, on the righthand page. As I remember, I took the book  
13 with it still in there and Jeff Simmons is the one that  
14 actually removed it.

15 Q Before we get to Jeff, back with your wife.  
16 Did you or she at that time notice Joseph Smith's writing or  
17 the signature or characters or anything?

18 A Yes. I didn't want to act like I was too  
19 knowledgeable about it with my wife. As far as saying that  
20 well, that sure looks like Book of Mormon characters, and  
21 she didn't say anything to that effect either.

22 MR. YENGICH: Tell Bob where you told Dorie  
23 you received the book?

24 A She obviously had not been studying Anthon  
25 Transcript characters like I had, so she just said well,

1       that looks wierd, or something.

2               MR. STOTT:   Did she see the Joseph Smith  
3       signature or handwriting or did you point it out to her?

4               A       Yes, I believe we did.  Let's see, at the very  
5       beginning we didn't and then I think it was the next day  
6       when I took it to Simmons.  See, this was at night time  
7       when we found it and the next morning is when we ran it up  
8       to Simmons and then we started to taking it out and it  
9       started breaking along the center, horizontal fold.  In  
10      fact, I think it eventually came all the way.  Yes, there's  
11      a complete tear there.  But I did say that looks, I think I  
12      said, that looks kind of like Joseph Smith's handwriting or  
13      something like that, to her.

14              MR. YENGICH:   Time out.

15              (Discussion held off the record. )

16              MR. STOTT:  Mark, did you have a reason or a  
17      purpose in having Dorie with you at the time you discovered  
18      this and basically using her as part of the discovery and  
19      part of the document finding?

20              A       Yes.  My purpose was that she would be a  
21      witness to the discovery and be able to verify that I did,  
22      indeed, find it stuck in the book.

23              Q       At this time had you decided what you were  
24      going to do as far as making the discovery known, who you  
25      were going to go to, what you were going to do with it?

1           A       Yes. My planning was to have it verified to  
2     the extent that it was by Jeff Simmons and by Dan Backman  
3     who I took it to the next morning.

4           Q       What was your plan after they verified it?

5           A       I anticipated that it would be, require some  
6     verification. In fact, my thinking was that it would  
7     probably require more of that than actually took place. My  
8     plans were that it would probably be taken to the church  
9     into Salt Lake City and be studied, possibly have the paper  
10    and ink analyzed.

11          Q       Was your intention to sell it at that time?  
12    Was the money a factor?

13          A       Yes, but not so much. Originally, initially it  
14    was more of the fame involved, although I thought all along  
15    that it would be sold and the more publicity I got the  
16    better. So yes, I would say both of those factors.  
17    Probably the fame and the financial aspect.

18          Q       You took it to Simmons, do you remember that  
19    day?

20          A       Yes, I remember that day.

21          Q       Anything about it that you want to point out or  
22    comment on?

23          A       As I remember he looked at it there in my  
24    presence, then he took it in the back room. I guess he had  
25    some sort of lab or something. He told me later that he

1 used some chemicals to try to loosen the glue. I can't  
2 remember specifically what he said he used. Some sort of  
3 organic solvent probably. He used a scalpel and a razor  
4 blade. I wasn't there when he was doing this. This is just  
5 what he told me. And he succeeded to remove it from the  
6 righthand page of the book and to separate it out on the  
7 folds. At which time he said that he recognized it as  
8 being Book of Mormon characters. I think he may have said  
9 that the handwriting on the book looked like Joseph Smith's  
10 but I can't say for sure if he said that or not, but I know  
11 that he saw the signature of Joseph Smith. The purported  
12 signature of Joseph Smith. I remember, it seems like I  
13 remember that he also made an attempt to read it, read the  
14 back, Joseph Smith's inscription on the back of it. Because  
15 of the slopiness of the handwriting and the fading, as I  
16 remember, he was not too successful and I didn't want to  
17 step in and tell him what it said. So I just let him guess  
18 at it, at the complete inscription, and he was obviously  
19 quite excited about it.

20 Q There was something about he pulled out  
21 Brodie's book and went to a particular page that showed the  
22 characters?

23 A Yes, I believe I remember that. I believe that  
24 he pulled out, I don't remember if it was No Man Knows My  
25 History, or what it was, but I remember he recognized them

1 as being Book of Mormon characters and made a brief  
2 comparison.

3 Q Were you familiar with the book he pulled out?

4 A All I remember about it is that it's not  
5 surprising to me that it would have been No Man Knows My  
6 History but the only thing I can say for sure is that he  
7 had--, in fact, I think he looked at two or three books to  
8 see different things. I think that it was more than one.  
9 It's not surprising that one of them was No Man Knows My  
10 History.

11 Q Were you familiar with it and had read it?

12 A I had briefly read the book.

13 MR. YENGLICH: We have nine more minutes  
14 because I have to meet with the prison over Mark.

15 A Yes, I remember he made comparisons and he was  
16 excited about it.

17 MR. STOTT: Had you thought in advance how you  
18 were going to act in front of these people or just kind of  
19 go with the flow?

20 A I think that's what I did is just more or less  
21 go with the flow, as you say.

22 Q Is that something you thought you could handle  
23 pretty easily, kind of acting somewhat ignorant of what was  
24 going on and amateurish?

25 A Yes, as we'll get into it, I'm sure. I think I

1 have that ability in my personality. I obviously do for the  
2 number of frauds that have been committed, you know as far  
3 as, I don't think I give myself away very easily as far as I  
4 can look someone in the eye and lie, for example.

5 Q That's something you were aware of yourself  
6 back in 1980?

7 A Not so much but I soon developed it. I thought  
8 that I, for one thing I didn't believe, for example in that  
9 someone could be inspired as far as what my feelings or  
10 thoughts were. You know using that in a religious sense. I  
11 thought that I could give myself away by acting nervous or a  
12 certain expression on my face or some outward sign. For  
13 example, well, we'll get in to this eventually later more.

14 Q Even with the, with Simmons and these early  
15 people, you seemed to let those people jump to the  
16 conclusions without you really pushing them in a certain  
17 place but yet they jumped to the conclusions you wanted them  
18 to?

19 A Right.

20 Q Is that something you were conscious of and  
21 something you developed or what?

22 A I won't say it is from any foreplanning or  
23 anything. It's just how it happened. I thought that, you  
24 know, there obviously are some characters on here that would  
25 jump out at anyone that was familiar with it, with the

1 Anthon Transcript. It wasn't surprising to me that it was  
2 compared to the Anthon Transcript, although it seems like my  
3 wife originally, or initially thought that it had something  
4 to do with the Book of Abraham, the facimilies or something  
5 in the Book of Abraham. But I wasn't surprised the  
6 historians or Jeff Simmons or those people recognized it as  
7 Anthon characters. I'm not sure if I really followed. Did  
8 that answer your question.

9 Q Let's talk a minute about the provenance that  
10 you gave. What did you tell these people at first, Simmons,  
11 Backman and the rest of the people, where it came from?

12 A The only thing I can say for sure is that I  
13 told them it was a Smith Bible, a Smith family Bible.  
14 Probably they would have asked me where it came from. If  
15 they did I would have said I got it from another collector.  
16 If they asked where the collector was or something I would  
17 probably would have said Salt Lake City. It's considered,  
18 among professionals anyway, almost improper or unethical to  
19 specify or to ask specifically a name of an individual or to  
20 try to pin down the actual purchaser or whatever, which  
21 obviously led to my benefit in this and later deals.

22 Q That is the way you felt back in 1980? You  
23 were aware of this?

24 A Yes, I had done deeding with a few things  
25 before. Although I had, I believe even at this point even

1 if I didn't express it I already had the plan worked out as  
2 far as where I was going to say I obtained it.

3 Q What was the plan?

4 A If I didn't express it right that day, within  
5 the next day or two, I know I did because the next day I  
6 went to the Church Office Building with it. The plan was  
7 that I acquired it from a collector in Salt Lake City which  
8 I was not going to disclose the name of. If someone wanted  
9 to know a name I was going to say that it was White, the  
10 name was White.

11 Q Why White?

12 A A fairly arbitrary choice. I knew that White  
13 was a common enough name in the phone book and someone would  
14 have a hard time calling all the Whites, even assuming they  
15 were all listed. For no other reasons, although--.

16 Q Did you have a first name in mind at that time?

17 A No. In fact, I never told anyone a first name  
18 until I found one later after another visit to Carthage,  
19 Illinois.

20 Q Was there any people you had come in contact  
21 with by the name of White that spurred your mind on to that,  
22 do you think?

23 A No. I think that the investigators have  
24 questioned one of Dorie's friends. Her maiden name was  
25 White.

1 Q Earl?

2 A Probably. I can't remember his last name. He  
3 lives on probably about 25th South and 15th East, in that  
4 area.

5 Q Had nothing to do with it then?

6 A No, had nothing to do with it.

7 Q He has an old Bible. Have you seen it?

8 A Yes. I didn't find out or see the Bible or  
9 talk to him about it until much after the Anthon Transcript  
10 and used the name White, but he did afterwards show me some  
11 of the things he had.

12 Q Did you have a story made up as to where this  
13 individual told you he got it from?

14 A Yes. The story was that it came from Carthage,  
15 Illinois. That's what I told them. That it was a relative  
16 of Joseph Smith. The reason why I used that was I had  
17 previously been to Carthage and had been to a museum there.

18 Q Can you tell us when you went?

19 A I would guess it would have been in 1976.

20 Q Was that on your honeymoon or before?

21 A It would have been before I was married. I  
22 went back there, let's see, there was a big Relief Society  
23 celebration in Nauvoo. That's when I went back there. My  
24 mom was Stake Relief Society President and had an invitation  
25 there and I went with my mom and dad.

1 Q How old were you then?

2 A I would have just been back from my mission so  
3 about 21. I remember going to a museum, I can't remember if  
4 it was in Carthage but seems like it was. But I remember a  
5 couple people we talked to who said that they were Smiths,  
6 that they were related to a sister of Joseph Smith and I  
7 knew they were quite into old antiques and that sort of  
8 thing.

9 MR. YENGICH: Okay. It's 11:30. Again, as  
10 I've asked, are you satisfied, using that term in the  
11 phrasiology of the agreement, with his answers to your  
12 questions today?

13 MR. STOTT: Yes. Can't we just finish this  
14 idea here?

15 (Discussion held off the record.)

16 WHEREUPON, the proceedings were concluded at the hour  
17 of 11:30 a.m.

18 -----

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

000196

INTERVIEWS  
CASE OF STATE VS. HOFMANN

FEBRUARY 11, 1987 through MAY 15, 1987

(FEBRUARY 27, 1987)

COPY

1 FEBRUARY 27, 1987 2:20 P.M.

2 PRESENT: MR. ROBERT STOTT, MR. DAVID BIGGS,

3 MR. BRAD RICH

4 MR. STOTT: Mark, I think we ended up at the  
5 point of just talking about Mr. White. Now, is it my  
6 understanding that when you first devised the document, the  
7 Anthon Transcript, you had a story concerning its finding  
8 with a Mr. White?

9 A Uh huh (indicating affirmatively.).

10 Q You didn't have a first name at that time, is  
11 that correct?

12 A That's right.

13 Q You also had, in the back of your mind, the  
14 story concerning Mr. White finding the document in a Bible  
15 and in a museum in Nauvoo?

16 A That's right.

17 Q Did you have the name of the person at the  
18 museum at that time?

19 A No, I believe originally all I said was that it  
20 was a descendant of one of the Joseph Smith brothers or  
21 sisters. I can't even rear that I said sister. I think it  
22 was a sibling.

23 Q And you had been back to Nauvoo at one time  
24 before then?

25 A That's right. I believe it was in 1976. I

1       also told you just as a matter of clarification here, I  
2       believe I said something to the effect that I did not know  
3       that I used the name White or tried to show that it was a  
4       Smith family Bible before the Anthon Transcript. But  
5       actually in thinking about it, I think that I did indicate  
6       that it was a Smith Bible beforehand and also I used the  
7       name White beforehand.

8       Q       But not to your family, is that right, or other  
9       people?

10       A       As to family, I think to my wife and friends I  
11       did that. Just a couple weeks beforehand. Actually, I  
12       believe that the idea of putting the manuscript or  
13       discovering a document in the Bible worked in the direction  
14       that I had the Bible that was a Smith Bible and I had  
15       thought that wouldn't it be nice to find a document in  
16       there rather than deciding to make the document and then  
17       thinking where can I put it or how am I going to find it. I  
18       think it worked that I had the Bible.

19       Q       Before you came up with the idea of the Anthon  
20       Transcript?

21       A       Then I thought of a document to discover in it  
22       rather than working the other way around, if you know what I  
23       mean.

24       Q       How long did that idea proceed, the actual  
25       determination of which document to find in there?

1           A       Well, I think that I first said that it was a  
2       Smith family Bible before I had the idea of putting a  
3       document in it and then just the idea evolved into, you  
4       know, I tell people that but there's nothing in the Bible to  
5       indicate it or whatnot, other than the false pedigree that I  
6       had given it. I wouldn't say more than a few days before,  
7       you know. It may not have been more than two or three weeks  
8       from the time that I, you know, come up with the idea of a  
9       Smith, that it was a Smith Bible to when I conceived the  
10      idea and then the next few days, actual forged the Anthon  
11      Transcript.

12           Q       From Simmons you went to whom with the  
13      document?

14           A       I believe I went directly from his office to  
15      the Institute Building.

16           Q       Why did you go there?

17           A       I had, I don't believe I had I ever took a  
18      class from him but he was an acquaintance of Backman, the  
19      author of that article we discussed last time, who I  
20      think--, It's hard for me to say how I made his  
21      acquaintance. I believe it was over, I may have known him  
22      beforehand but I think it had something to do with the Maria  
23      and Sarah Lawrence Letter.

24           Q       So you knew him before this?

25           A       That's right, before the Anthon episode and he

1 knew that I had something to do with or dealt or collected  
2 or whatever, in Mormon documents beforehand.

3 Q You basically told him the same story you told  
4 Simmons?

5 A That's right.

6 Q How was it you got from there to make  
7 connections with either the people in the Church Historian's  
8 Office or the Church authorities?

9 A I believe it was actually his idea to contact  
10 Dean Jesse, who is the first person, I guess, of the Church  
11 authorities to examine the document. I believe in fact,  
12 while I was in his office in the Institute Building, that he  
13 called and made an appointment for the next day to meet with  
14 Dean Jesse. At which time both of us--, in fact, I think  
15 that he drove. I think we went in Backman's car to the  
16 Church in Salt Lake City.

17 Q Took the Bible and the transcript?

18 A Right.

19 Q Is that the first time you met Dean Jesse?

20 A No. Again, I believe I met him also with the  
21 Maria and Sarah Lawrence Letter. In fact, I may have--  
22 This is what is confused as far as, yes, I believe I did  
23 meet him also with the Maria and Sarah Lawrence Letter.

24 Q Just one or several times? I'm just trying to  
25 find out your relationship with Dean Jesse at that time.

1           A       It wasn't anything but very casual or as far  
2 as, no, that is the wrong word. I may have met him two or  
3 three times. We said hi, and we were on terms enough to  
4 shake hands or whatever, but I did not know him personally.

5           Q       You had sold the Maria and Sarah Lawrence  
6 Letter you had before this time, hadn't you?

7           A       No, I don't believe so. I believe that the  
8 Church acquired that after. In fact, I'm certain the Church  
9 acquired that after the Anthon.

10          Q       Was it in your possession at that time still?

11          A       Now, let's see. Let me qualify that. I had  
12 possession of the Anthon Transcript for sometime after  
13 showing it to the Church, after first showing it. It might  
14 be in that time before I actually signed the papers or  
15 whatever and sold the Anthon Transcript to the Church,  
16 possibly in that time I sold or traded the Maria and Sarah  
17 Lawrence Letter. Although I believe that my recollection is  
18 that they had actually acquired the Anthon Transcript before  
19 the Maria and Sarah Lawrence Letter.

20          Q       Before they acquired it or before you brought  
21 it up to them?

22          A       Before they actually acquired it, which was  
23 some months after I first brought it up to them. I believe  
24 that the Maria and Sarah Lawrence Letter was acquired by the  
25 Church and they acquired and purchased the Anthon

1 Transcript. I presume that you could verify that and find  
2 out the exact date of their acquisition.

3 Q Well, there's a little bit of trouble with  
4 that. That's why I'm trying to ask you. Are you saying  
5 that you approached Jesse with the Maria and Sarah Lawrence  
6 Letter before you met him with the Anthon?

7 A That's right, but I believe that they actually  
8 acquired the Maria and Sarah Lawrence Letter after they  
9 acquired the Anthon Transcript. I could not understand-- I  
10 think the reason why they possibly don't have a date of  
11 acquisition for the Maria and Sarah Lawrence Letter being  
12 that it was probably a trade in which paperwork wasn't  
13 signed as far as their acquiring it.

14 Q And were you working with Dean Jesse on that or  
15 with Schmidt?

16 A On what?

17 Q On the Maria and Sarah Lawrence?

18 A It was shown to Dean Jesse first. When it was  
19 actually purchased by the Church or acquired by the Church  
20 through trade, that would have been through Don Schmidt.

21 Q Do you remember what you received for that one?

22 A I can guess but I can't remember for sure. I  
23 presume it was probably one or two Kirkland Safety Society  
24 Bank Notes. Not much since the handwriting could not be  
25 identified and although it had interesting content, it

1 wasn't a particularly valuable item. I'm speaking, of  
2 course, of the Maria and Sarah Lawrence Letter.

3 MR. BIGGS: Is that your work?

4 A That's not one of the charges so what do you  
5 want me to say? I think that according to Ron, I'm only  
6 supposed to --

7 MR. RICH: I'm willing to go along with that.  
8 Let's get back to that letter. I'm under instructions from  
9 Ron to avoid a couple areas until he can be here. I think  
10 he is prepared to go into that but let's move onto those.

11 A Which ones?

12 MR. RICH: The ones we talked about outside.

13 MR. STOTT: Okay, tell us just briefly your  
14 meeting then with Dean Jesse and with Mr. Backman?

15 A Concerning the Anthon Transcript?

16 Q Yes.

17 A I believe that the next day after showing it or  
18 showing it originally to Backman and Jeff Simmons, that we  
19 traveled together in his car, Backman's car, to Salt Lake  
20 City and we showed it, the document to Dean Jesse. I don't  
21 believe we showed it to anyone else at that time

22 Q Did he give an impression to you of its  
23 authenticity or I guess, on the handwriting or anything?

24 A He looked at the handwriting, said that it  
25 looked like it could be Joseph Smith's but was noncommittal

1 until he had an opportunity to examine it more carefully.

2 Q How did you feel about going down and  
3 presenting it to the so-called Church scholars and experts?

4 A I believed that it would pass their inspection  
5 as far as being in Joseph Smith's handwriting and as far as  
6 how I felt, probably a combination of emotions. There was,  
7 of course, a little bit of fear involved since, of course,  
8 it was a forged document. There was some excitement  
9 involved, a feeling of duping them, I guess.

10 Q I think this is a good time as any to ask, what  
11 were your feelings at this time generally to start out, say  
12 with your faith?

13 A Well, previous to this I had lost faith in the  
14 Mormon Church.

15 Q Do you want to tell us when or was it a gradual  
16 thing?

17 A Right around the age of 14. Therefore, I  
18 wasn't or I had no fear as far as-- This is something that I  
19 guess Ron wants to be here when I start talking about.  
20 Well, I will finish what I was saying

21 MR. RICH: We are very close to an area that I  
22 know Ron wants to be here but I think you can finish this.

23 A I wasn't fearful of the Church inspiration  
24 detecting the forgery. That's all I was going to say.

25 MR. STOTT: Let me ask you this: It's another

1 question related to this issue. What was your feeling about  
2 Mormon history and specifically early Mormon history with  
3 Joseph Smith at this time? Did you have some perceptions  
4 or--

5 A Yes.

6 Q Some things you wanted to do with Mormon  
7 history?

8 A I won't go so far as to say I wanted to change  
9 Mormon history. Let me take that back. Maybe I did. I  
10 believed that the documents that I created could have been a  
11 part of Mormon history. I'm speaking specifically, for  
12 example, of the magic-related items. The 1825 Stool Letter,  
13 the so-called Salamander Letter. In effect, I guess, the  
14 questions I asked myself in deciding on a forgery one of  
15 the questions was, what could have been? I had a concept of  
16 Church history and I followed that concept.

17 Q Let me ask you this: This one we are talking  
18 about, the Anthon, of course was kind of one that fit in  
19 pretty well with Mormon history, conventional Mormon  
20 history. Did you have any idea that you were going to come  
21 up with something that didn't fit into Mormon history? Was  
22 this kind of a way to get your foot in the door? Did you  
23 perceive things like that at that time?

24 A No, nothing like that. In fact, at the time I  
25 had no other thoughts of forging any other Mormon documents.

1 Partially because since there is obviously a tremendous  
2 amount of luck involved in discovering something out of the  
3 blue such is this, that a further discovery would cast doubt  
4 on their authenticity.

5 Q At this time? I'm just asking at this time.

6 A I'm talking about at this time. I obviously  
7 changed from that view.

8 Q Did you have any particular feelings about the  
9 LDS officials that you were going to be dealing with? You  
10 know, any particular feelings?

11 A I really didn't know what officials I would be  
12 dealing with. I had, before the Anthon Transcript, I had  
13 met with Don Schmidt so I knew something about his role. In  
14 fact, you will probably want that as part of the record too.  
15 I believe that Don Schmidt's earliest recollection of me is  
16 in association with the Anthon Transcript. I had previously  
17 made just a single trade with him that I remember, and that  
18 was involving Mormon money, Mormon money transaction trade.

19 Q So he was involved. I guess he came on after  
20 Jesse, didn't he, as far as the Anthon Transcript?

21 A No. You want me to continue?

22 Q Yes.

23 A What is going on here, the day after the  
24 discovery, like I say, I believe I met with Dean Jesse. I  
25 believe it was the very next day that Backman informed me

1 that Dean Jesse's boss, Leonard Erington was interested in  
2 examining the document. As I remember, it was that day, two  
3 days following its discovery that we, Backman and myself,  
4 went again to Salt Lake City, showed Dean Jesse the document  
5 again. He introduced us to Leonard Erington.

6 Q First time you had met him?

7 A I believe so

8 MR. BIGGS: I would be interested in your  
9 impressions of Mr. Erington?

10 A He was interested in it. He thought it was an  
11 astounding find, I guess. After meeting with him he  
12 introduced us to G. Homer Durham, I believe. G. Homer  
13 Durham introduced us, this is all in the same day, he  
14 introduced us to Elders Gordon B. Hinkley and Boyd K.  
15 Packer.

16 Q First time you met them?

17 A Yes. And then introduced us to the first  
18 presidency, but this is the point where we don't want to  
19 discuss the Church until Ron is here.

20 MR. RICH: Yes. Mr. Yengich wants to be  
21 included in it and we'll wait for his arrival.

22 MR. STOTT: When did the time come, well, let  
23 me ask you this:

24 A Can we go off the record?

25 DISCUSSION HELD OFF THE RECORD

1                   MR. STOTT:   Tell us how it came about that you  
2   came up with the name Ansel White and more specifically,  
3   where the Bible was found?

4                   A       Ansel White was the name that I used after  
5   meeting with Dorothy, I don't remember her last name. Tell  
6   me her name and I'll tell you if that is it or not.

7                   Q       Dean?

8                   A       Yes, Dorothy Dean in Carthage, Illinois. I  
9   went to her-- Well, my family and myself, my parents and  
10   myself went on a vacation to Nauvoo, that area.

11                  Q       Was that in June?

12                  A       Probably. It was in the summer months.

13                  Q       You took the transcript with you?

14                  A       No, I didn't take the transcript, I took a  
15   Xerox copy of the transcript and the Bible. I contacted  
16   some other relatives of her originally in Carthage. They  
17   suggested-- Showed them the Bible, told them my story as far  
18   as that I understood that it was a Smith family Bible.

19                  Q       What was your purpose for doing this?

20                  A       To try to establish a better provenance for the  
21   Bible and the document.

22                             They suggested I meet with Dorothy Dean. She,  
23   Dorothy Dean-- Oh, and one of them also said that they  
24   vaguely remembered seeing or they thought they remembered  
25   seeing the Bible in their grandmother's house, in Dorothy

1 Dean's mother's house, which was encouraging to me, although  
2 probably not too surprising since everyone has bibles in  
3 their house. I didn't feel like my story would be  
4 discredited at all. Partially because there were so many  
5 relatives around, not just descendants of Kathryn Smith,  
6 Joseph Smith's sister, but of the other Smith siblings.  
7 That even if somebody could say definitely that the Bible  
8 didn't come from their family, that it would not discredit  
9 the story since there's more families than anyone could ever  
10 check up on.

11 Q Did you find Dorothy?

12 A Yes. I met Dorothy. She said that her mother  
13 ran a sort of antique shop out of their home and that her  
14 mother may have sold the Bible, as she occasionally did  
15 other Mormon items.

16 Q Was your father with you or any other member of  
17 the family?

18 A I believe that on my second meeting with  
19 Dorothy Dean the following day, that my father was there.  
20 The first meeting I believe that I was alone. The first  
21 meeting she told me that or I told her that it would have  
22 been a man by the name of White. I did not say a last name.

23 Q Excuse me?

24 A I didn't say a first name, excuse me.

25 Q But you brought up the White?

1           A       I brought up the White. She said that her  
2 mother kept a sort of register of the sales she made in her  
3 antique business and that she would see if she could find  
4 any reference to that sale.

5           The following day, when I met with her, by  
6 coincidence she said that she had found the name, a name,  
7 White in the register. It was not specified what the item  
8 was that was sold. I can't remember if there was a price or  
9 not as far as how much the item sold for but if there was it  
10 would have been in the ballpark of what another Bible might  
11 have brought. I asked her to Xerox that off, that page off  
12 the register for me, which she did. I later, after  
13 returning to Salt Lake, wrote her and asked for a sort of  
14 affidavit, which she gave me and which you have, I'm sure.

15           Q       Did she show you the actual register or just a  
16 Xerox copy?

17           A       I believe she showed me the register.

18           Q       You didn't do anything to the register?

19           A       No. I don't believe she showed me the  
20 register. I believe she just wrote down on a piece of paper  
21 what it said.

22           Q       When you told her--

23           A       No, nothing was done to the register or  
24 anything.

25           Q       When you told her the person who had sold the

1 Bible was White, were you expecting her to come up with  
2 something?

3 A No. It was all a grand coincidence. For one  
4 thing, I had no idea that her mother would have written down  
5 names of the sales or whatever, of the people that made the  
6 purchases. It was one of those things that happens in life,  
7 not very often but it was a coincidence.

8 Q Must have astounded you when you saw it?

9 A Yes. It made me rather happy, I guess.

10 Q Is that where you got the first name?

11 A No. Actually, I never said that I had  
12 purchased the Bible from an Ansel White. I believe, in  
13 fact, the register said it was a relative of Ansel White.  
14 It wasn't Ansel White himself that made the purchase and I  
15 never said that it was Ansel White that I made the purchase  
16 from. I was keeping that name, the first name secretly to  
17 myself for one thing, since there wasn't an Ansel White in  
18 Salt Lake phone directory and not wanting someone to be able  
19 to locate the person that I falsely claimed to have  
20 purchased it from, and being able to refute my story, I  
21 never told anyone a first name that I remember.

22 Q You don't remember telling anyone Ansel White?

23 A No. I remember saying a relative of Ansel  
24 White, but not that the purchase was made from Ansel White.

25 Q So it wasn't until this trip that you started

1 to, that you knew who Ansel White was?

2 A I believe the register also said it was, the  
3 purchaser, the person who had made the purchase was a  
4 relative of Ansel White who lived in California, as I  
5 remember. If you have that, if you have a copy of that I  
6 would like to see it.

7 Q I don't think I brought it with me today.

8 A Let's see now, you may know that one of the  
9 genealogists at the Church was asked by the editor, managing  
10 editor of the Ensign by the name of--

11 Q Todd?

12 A Todd, to see if he could track down this Ansel  
13 White, which he succeeded in doing, although he didn't track  
14 down all the family members or whatever. So therefore, it  
15 wasn't threatening to my story in that Ansel White had died,  
16 as I remember. He had previously died.

17 Q In your property we found the notice of his  
18 death, a newspaper article.

19 A Yes, which would have been given to me by that  
20 genealogist.

21 Q Did you do anything further on that?

22 A No.

23 Q That is where it came from. Do you know the  
24 name of this genealogist?

25 A If I heard it I would, I should know it but for

1       some reason I can't.

2               Q       Is this person still living, this genealogist?

3               A       Yes.

4               Q       Does he work for the Church or private?

5               A       For the Church.

6               Q       It wasn't Barton, was it?

7               A       Yes, Barton.

8               Q       I don't know if you ever saw this? Why don't  
9       you take a minute and look at that.

10              A       No, I haven't seen it.

11              Q       That was sent to us.

12              A       It's letters that he wrote me were handwritten,  
13       as I remember.

14              Q       This was apparently written at the time, and do  
15       you know who--

16              A       What do you mean it was written at the time?

17              Q       Looks like it was written back in 1980 or 1981  
18       by someone who was checking up on you.

19              A       It would have been Barton, most likely.

20              Q       Do you know this is Barton?

21              A       Yes. I say that because I know they had  
22       contacted Dorothy Dean even before I arrived there in  
23       Carthage and when I first met her.

24              Q       Did he ever express any doubt to you or to  
25       others about the whole Anthon affair?

1           A       Not to me and I don't know that he did to  
2 others.

3           MR. RICH:   Do I understand that you just  
4 received this letter anonymously from some source?

5           MR. STOTT:   Yes.

6           MR. RICH:   That's strange.

7           MR. STOTT:   Mark, after your sojourn to Nauvoo  
8 with your family in June is when you started to, at least  
9 mention the relative of Ansel White?

10          A       Like I say, I had briefly used the name White  
11 as the person I had made the purchase from, but that is when  
12 I started relating that Mr. White to Ansel White.

13          Q       Jeff Salt, didn't he make an affidavit out?

14          A       Yes, I had him make an affidavit also, but I  
15 can't remember specifically what it says. He was a friend  
16 of mine. I think it was to the effect that I had told him  
17 previously to discovering the Anthon Transcript that the  
18 Bible came from the Smith family.

19          Q       I do not have it here but I thought he used,  
20 you used the word, Ansel White in there, in the affidavit?

21          A       No, I'm sure that he didn't. He may have used  
22 the name White but I didn't know anything about Ansel White  
23 until meeting with Dorothy.

24          Q       Was that affidavit made before you met with  
25 Dorothy?

1           A       Yes.

2           Q       The Salt affidavit?

3           A       Yes. As I remember it was.

4           Q       So that shouldn't have anything about Ansel

5   White in it?

6           A       That's right. See, this whole thing with Ansel

7   White was just a verification that the name White that I

8   used was correct. Like I say, as far as Ansel White, it was

9   only a relative of Ansel White. It wasn't Ansel White

10   himself.

11          Q       You made some diary accounts of this whole

12   thing, didn't you?

13          A       Yes, although not the true account of the whole

14   thing, you know. In other words, I didn't make a diary

15   account saying I forged it.

16          Q       These are the copies of what we found in your

17   place.

18          A       Yes.

19          Q       One is an account of the actual find and the

20   other would be an account of your trip back to Nauvoo?

21          A       Okay.

22          Q       What was the purpose of making these?

23          A       Mormons are told to keep journal records of

24   important events. I thought this was an event people would

25   want to have a record of.

1 Q Was it a feeling then by keeping a record it  
2 would appear as though it was a whole thing?

3 A Yes, I'm sure that was part of it.

4 Q Did you show these to people?

5 A I can't remember. I may have shown it again to  
6 some of my friends. Possibly my wife also but I can't say  
7 for sure that they would remember or recognize them or  
8 whatever. I believe they were made at the time or, you  
9 know, in 1980.

10 Q When you went back to the midwest looking for  
11 the provenance, did you feel that you had to find this  
12 provenance or was it just kind of an interest for you?

13 A Just something I thought I would do.

14 Q Were you aware of what the Church had been  
15 doing with the Anthon Transcript or Bible as far as any  
16 scientific testing or efforts to authenticate?

17 A I hoped the Church would carry on some tests  
18 because I felt confident it would pass. In fact, that was  
19 part of the arrangement I had with them when I left the  
20 document in their possession before actually selling it to  
21 them. As far as I know, all they did was to deacidify it  
22 and, actually I'm not even sure. I think they said they  
23 had deacidified it and I know they mended the creased tear.

24 Q Anything about their taking infrared  
25 photographs?

1           A       Yes, I knew that also. Don Schmidt took the  
2 document to BYU, I believe is where they had the photolab or  
3 whatever, took ultraviolet and infrared photographs of it  
4 which, I guess can be somewhat related to authenticating it.

5           Q       You were disappointed in the meager attempts  
6 they made?

7           A       I thought they would put it through more  
8 strenuous testing than they did. As far as being  
9 disappointed, I don't know. Well, perhaps in a way I was  
10 disappointed because I wanted, in a way, to fool the  
11 experts.

12          Q       Did you have anymore meetings with Dean Jesse  
13 during this time as far as him looking at the characters and  
14 the writing or talking to you about his findings?

15          A       Yes. I believe that he, I left the document in  
16 his possession and then when I later took it I left  
17 photographs or Xeroxes, photocopies with him. Then he told  
18 me also that he had given it a closer examination after it  
19 was in the Church's possession but he studied it for a long  
20 time before the Church had the news conference.

21          Q       What was his impression?

22          A       That the writing on the back was Joseph  
23 Smith's.

24          Q       Did he or did others try to portray him at that  
25 time as kind of being the Joseph Smith handwriting expert?

1           A       Yes. He is, in my opinion, a Joseph Smith  
2       handwriting expert. Although I do not believe and I don't  
3       think he does either, that he is qualified to detect  
4       purposefully forged Joseph Smith handwriting. He is very  
5       good at detecting in the Church Archives and records, what  
6       documents are in Joseph Smith's hand and which are in the  
7       hand of his contemporaries.

8           Q       Did you establish kind of a pretty good  
9       relationship with him at that time, right from the first?

10          A       Right. Over the years we developed a fairly  
11       good relationship, I think. Never a real social  
12       relationship but, I guess we both had things that the other  
13       person wanted. I liked to be able to use his expertise in  
14       handwriting and he liked my purported knowledge of hidden or  
15       unseen Church documents as a researcher. He's an historian.

16          Q       Just a few questions will end this up. There  
17       was a slide picture of a bookstore in England that you took.  
18       Do you remember any of that at all? Would that be a--

19          A       If I saw it I believe, probably.

20          Q       Do you remember if you took a picture of the  
21       bookstore?

22          A       Yes, it's probably the bookstore.

23          Q       The bookstore is on the main floor of the  
24       street that this picture is of?

25          A       If I saw it I could tell you. I suspect it is

1 a bookstore in Wales but it may be the one in Bristol. I  
2 would have to see it to tell you.

3 Q Were you at all aware of that watermark in the  
4 Amos part?

5 A Yes, I believe that I saw a couple watermarks  
6 on those pages.

7 Q At the time you were doing this were you aware?

8 A Uh huh (indicating affirmatively.).

9 Q Then wouldn't that be of concern as far as  
10 being the great great grandfather of Joseph Smith or the  
11 great grandfather?

12 A It wasn't a concern for a couple of reasons.  
13 One being that I never said for sure or there was no way of  
14 knowing for sure that that was the great great grandfather  
15 of Joseph Smith, even if someone did see the watermarks.  
16 But more importantly, I did not think that anyone would  
17 examine for a watermark and in fact, well, it's probably not  
18 important and I would want to go off the record to tell you.

19 DISCUSSION HELD OFF THE RECORD

20 MR. STOTT: Just one last question. Were you  
21 surprised at the lack of attention that was given to the  
22 Bible by the Church or anybody?

23 A I wasn't so surprised with the Bible receiving  
24 the lack of attention as I was the transcript. The Bible, I  
25 guess was important in that it gave some authenticity or a

1 sense of authenticity to the transcript but the transcript  
2 itself was what was important. In fact, the original idea  
3 when we were discussing the Church housing the transcript,  
4 no mention was even made by them that they would like to  
5 keep the Bible also. That was basically my doing that they  
6 even ended up with the Bible.

7 Q Were you aware that that cover is not the  
8 original cover on the Bible?

9 A Yes, I knew it was rebound and I think I  
10 mentioned also I believe it was also trimmed and gilded at  
11 that time, it was retrimmed and regilded at the time of that  
12 binding.

13 Q This time, 1980, at that time did you feel that  
14 your knowledge and skill concerning paper, was that a very  
15 high level?

16 A No.

17 Q Or were you still learning?

18 A I was still learning. I had some knowledge of  
19 the basics. I could easily tell machine made paper from  
20 hand made paper. I knew that this paper was machine made.  
21 I knew that the paper did not basically change, paper  
22 manufacture, until around 1860. Well, the end of 1850s  
23 probably when wood pulp started to be added. Meaning that  
24 you wouldn't be able to tell paper from the 1840s from paper  
25 from the 1820s, you know. Experts are not able to--, Well,

1 there is a way to tell but it is not generally used. I had  
2 a knowledge, I think at that time as far as the, I think I  
3 had previously looked up in the library or whatever, I had  
4 some this of paper. Although not as much as I later  
5 acquired.

6 Q Same about inks?

7 A Same about inks.

8 Q Did you learn this basically on your own  
9 studies or was any of it part of your chemistry classes, for  
10 example?

11 A Didn't have anything to do with chemistry  
12 classes, really.

13 Q You mentioned one specific book on ink that you  
14 had. Did you have other books on paper and ink?

15 A No. I had a book that I had acquired, I  
16 believe at Reuel's Art Shop on paper manufacture which would  
17 have been the only paper book. And which I believe you  
18 have, don't you? No? I believe that was part of what was  
19 siezed. Well, there was that notation in Hamilton's book  
20 that I actually didn't even realize was in there until the  
21 preliminary hearing.

22 Q Do you know when you bought that book?

23 A It would have been after all of this. It would  
24 have been when I was in New York. Probably May, 1982.

25 Q How about your knowledge and skills on aging

1 paper at that time? How would you characterize that?

2 A Hopefully it improved. Yes, I think that this  
3 is the only document that has this kind of staining on it.

4 Q And again, was this process something that you  
5 developed on your own or--

6 A Yes, it was all on my own. Now, as far as my  
7 knowledge of chemistry, I guess chemistry had something to  
8 do with my knowing about oxidation and reduction and  
9 reactions or whatever, as far as how to speed up the  
10 oxidation of ink. So I have to be careful what I say.

11 Q What about your knowledge of LDS history at  
12 this time? Did you have quite a bit?

13 A Yes. I probably had more in 1980 than I've had  
14 since then.

15 Q Did you know more than you let on about history  
16 or did it just depend on who the people were?

17 A Not really. Yes, probably depended on who the  
18 person was. For example, as far as knowing about history,  
19 as far as history, I wouldn't talk to a lot of people about  
20 what I thought about the History of the Church, just because  
21 it is not, I guess, my version of the history is not  
22 sympathetic with the teachings of the Church. So I would  
23 have been, I guess, careful who I talked to about it.

24 Q Were you much of a collector at this time?

25 A Not a collector of Mormon documents. I had, I

1 think at the time I had one or two Kirkland Bank Notes.  
2 Maybe a couple other items/

3 Q Well, on the Samuel Smith signature, it is kind  
4 of encased in a box or has the little swirly things.

5 A Has the little swirly things?

6 Q Yes, and we were concerned about when you did  
7 the little swirls and the ink you used on it.

8 A I believe that ink is the same as the Samuel  
9 Smith ink. I believe that would have been done the same  
10 time.

11 MR. BIGGS: The concern was they took a sample  
12 out of the body and a sample out of those little curley Qs  
13 came up to be the same ink.

14 A Since I'm sure I added those curley Qs, I must  
15 have been pretty lucky in making that ink. I remember  
16 specifically I did the curley Qs so I can say that for a  
17 fact. Also, I think that your FBI lab or whatever will be  
18 able to tell you that was made with a steel nibbed pen,  
19 whereas the text is all, well, I'll have to look at it. I  
20 believe the text is quill.

21 MR. BIGGS: Go on.

22 A But I know I added the curley Qs. Are the  
23 curley Qs cracked? No? They have that characteristic?

24 MR. BIGGS: Yes, I think some.

25 A Some? Yes, I made them then. I asked you

1 before about, let's see you were asking if I had traced over  
2 any of the writing in the text of Amos and I said that I had  
3 not and then I remember asking well, was any of the writing  
4 in the text cracked and I can't remember what you said.

5 MR. STOTT: I don't know if they looked over  
6 everything but they didn't find any crack. Do you have  
7 anything else on the Anthon Transcript you think we ought  
8 to ask you?

9 A Simply that it's a crude forgery and shouldn't  
10 have fooled the people that it did, in my opinion.

11 Q What do you think would have happened if it  
12 hadn't fooled them? Do you think you would have gone on?

13 A Depends.

14 MR. RICH: Let me ask you a question. Why did  
15 you choose to do that alignment the way you did?

16 A What?

17 Q Align them the way you you did?

18 A We talked about that before. In one of, well  
19 actually both of Charles Anthon's letters, off the record.

20 DISCUSSION HELD OFF THE RECORD

21 MR. STOTT: One last question and I think it's  
22 relevant to Ansel White. Did you use Ansel White, the  
23 so-called Mr. White and Ansel White as a source for at least  
24 one or more of your other purported finds?

25 A I cannot remember specifically which other find

1 but I may have said to somebody well, this came from the  
2 same source. It wasn't any of these other related documents  
3 we are talking about that I have been charged with.

4 Q The Second Anointing. Do you remember using  
5 that as a source?

6 A No, I don't believe that is a source for the  
7 Second Anointing.

8 Q Maria and Sarah Lawrence?

9 A No, definitely not/

10 Q Let's talk about the Joseph Smith 3rd Blessing.  
11 Again, can you kind of tell us how it started and where you  
12 got the idea, what led up to it?

13 A This, in my opinion, is a better forgery than  
14 the Anthon Transcript. At least the Bullock writing is.  
15 The Joseph Smith is probably not as good. As far as where I  
16 got the idea, it's pretty common knowledge in the Church,  
17 RLDS Church, that there's been a debate going on as far as  
18 whether or not such a blessing was ever given. Because of  
19 that controversy I figured such a blessing would be worth a  
20 lot of money to certain people so this was, although again  
21 as far as motivation, it is true that partially it had to do  
22 with my rewriting of Mormon history. It was mostly money  
23 oriented, mostly money motivated, I would say.

24 Q In June when you go back to Nauvoo and come  
25 back in probably the fall, is when you start to have a

1       desire and interest in doing something else?

2               A       Probably the best answer to that is when I  
3       needed the money. Like I say, this was money oriented. As  
4       I remember, my first son was born right around the time of  
5       this.

6               Q       Did you quit school?

7               A       Oh, yes. I was out of school living in Sandy,  
8       actually, when this was forged. Previously I was living up  
9       on the avenues in an apartment when those handwritten notes  
10      were forged. I had previously, I guess, established  
11      somewhat of a reputation in buying and selling Mormon  
12      documents. I believe before making this purchase or making  
13      this forgery that I had purchased two or three rather  
14      significant collections of Mormon documents, authentic  
15      Mormon documents. So it was pretty common knowledge that I  
16      was an active seeker of such things. Did that answer that?

17              Q       Well, okay. Now can we go on right in to the  
18      Joseph Smith the 3rd. What was the origin of that and when,  
19      do you remember?

20              A       It would have been forged several weeks before  
21      I sold it to the LDS Church and they traded it to the, to  
22      RLDS Church. Again, it didn't take long to compose it. It  
23      was all written, composed in maybe an hour but probably less  
24      than that. I mentioned that because several people, at  
25      least here in the prison, made comments to the effect that

1     it must have taken a long time to do such research or  
2     whatever in making these forgeries, which actually isn't the  
3     case. At least so far as composing them, it isn't the case.  
4     I probably came up with the idea one day and that same day  
5     composed it and probably the next day wrote it, or, you  
6     know. I may have even done it all the same day, I don't  
7     know. But it wasn't over any sort of extended period of  
8     time.

9             Q     How did you come up with your information  
10    concerning dates, people involved, wording?

11            A     Let's see, as far as the date, January 17th,  
12    well, I had first of all researched the Blessing.

13            Q     Why did you research it?

14            A     Why did I research it?

15            Q     Was it with an idea of doing this?

16            A     Yes. That's what I mean, I had researched to  
17    do this.

18            Q     So you didn't come up with an idea in one day  
19    and do it then? That's what I'm getting at.

20            A     That's right. That's right. Yes, I think  
21    before I meant was, what I think I said was that I composed  
22    it and wrote it within a day or two but it took some time  
23    before then to look at whatever references I could find on  
24    the Blessing. The day I remember, I think that was  
25    partially from Joseph Smith's History of the Church. In

1 other words, I wanted to make sure Joseph Smith was really  
2 in Nauvoo at that time.

3 Q Who did you find that out from?

4 A I have a copy of that set of books. The other  
5 reference was mostly done probably at the Church Library. I  
6 doubt that I used any other archive material other than that  
7 Blessing we talked about. Most of it would have been done  
8 downstairs on the first floor in the library, just looking  
9 up different books, looking at different books.

10 Q Using your name or using anybody else name?

11 A Probably would have used my name. A lot of  
12 them I didn't have to use a name because they're just there  
13 on the shelves. If I called down some books I would have  
14 used my name because by that time I was known to the  
15 secretaries and people there.

16 Q What about the Temple Lot Transcript, Temple  
17 Case?

18 A Yes, I would have used that. I would have  
19 looked at it. I don't know, I can't remember specifically  
20 what it says so I can't say if I really used it, but I would  
21 have looked at it.

22 Q You had a copy in your stuff? Do you remember  
23 how you obtained that copy?

24 A Like I said, it would have either--; I know it  
25 would have either come from the Church or from the

1 University of Utah. See, you ought to be able to find-- Did  
2 you look at either of those places?

3 Q This is a copy of the Tanners'.

4 A This is from the Tanners?

5 Q Yes. Do you know where you got it  
6 specifically?

7 A Is this the actual transcript that I got?

8 Q No, it is a copy of yours.

9 A This is from the book by the Tanners then?

10 Q Appears to be because there is the Tanners' and  
11 it matches.

12 A I don't remember that I had purchased it from  
13 the Tanners so I presume that I got it from the University  
14 Library, made a copy. It may be that I had made that  
15 purchase from the Tanners but I don't remember it.

16 Q Would that have been something on open stack or  
17 something you would have had to specifically order?

18 A Probably something I would have had to order.  
19 Let's see, I'm thinking, I believe that's true with both the  
20 Church and the University of Utah library. I probably would  
21 have had to order it. So you can check to see if I ordered  
22 it and if I didn't, then I purchased the copy from the  
23 Tanners.

24 Q You would have used your real name, in other  
25 words?

1           A       Yes.

2           Q       Do you remember anything specifically that, any  
3 information you got out of that Temple Lot Transcript?

4           A       Oh, I believe that I used Whitehead. I  
5 remember all of this but I can't say for sure what I used.  
6 If you want me to read it for a minute, I can, probably.

7           Q       Why don't you. It might be important.

8           A       I remember that he gave one of the better  
9 accounts of the Blessing. It says, "and it was in the  
10 winter of 1843", which I interpreted to be the winter of  
11 1843-44, so that would have been, would have led to the  
12 date. Gives the names of people that were there, which I  
13 verified as being in Nauvoo on that date. I think I've read  
14 the parts now dealing with the Blessing.

15          Q       Let me see that for a second. I think there's  
16 something else.

17          A       Also, this date, according to the History of  
18 the Church, I believe it was right around the time that  
19 Joseph Smith was involved with the Endowment secrets, which  
20 I thought related to a blessing such is this.

21          Q       Here is an item from the University of Utah  
22 Library which is not a copy of that. Do you remember  
23 ordering that one? It's a little different format.

24          A       I don't remember ordering it but it wouldn't  
25 surprise me if I did. I don't recognize it.

1           Q       When you were doing your work in preparation  
2       for the production of the Joseph Smith, 3rd Blessing, did  
3       you ever come across the Autumn Leaves?

4           A       It wouldn't surprise me if I did. I basically,  
5       I went to the card catalog, as I remember, looking for  
6       anything that had anything to do with this Blessing. I  
7       recognize part of this so I would say that I saw it either  
8       here or quoted in a book or something.

9           Q       Finally, you were familiar with that article by  
10      Quinn, weren't you?

11          A       Yes. Was this published before or after the  
12      Blessing?

13          Q       Before. That is the Mormon Succession Crisis  
14      1844 by Michael Quinn, published in BYU Studies of 1976.

15          A       Yes, I was familiar with this.

16          Q       Is that something again that you used?

17          A       I read through this, yes, and although I can't  
18      say for sure, I believe that I would have read it before  
19      forging this Blessing. Do you want me to run through a list  
20      of what I went through as good as I can?

21          Q       Yes.

22          A       What I looked at, there was some writings by  
23      Joseph Fielding Smith to the effect that such a Blessing  
24      never took place, which I read through. Also by a couple of  
25      the other elders of the Church whose names I don't remember.

1 These are mostly pamphlets, as I remember. I also read a  
2 considerable amount of RLDS literature in which their  
3 witnesses claim that the Blessing did take place.

4 Q I've got here a dated register of the  
5 University Library where it shows, and this is, of course,  
6 going back even before, so maybe it has nothing to do with  
7 it, but I notice a H. Cannon Journal in 1976.

8 A Yes, that didn't have anything to do with this.

9 Q I thought I had another one but I guess not.  
10 How did the Blessing that is contained at the Archives at  
11 the LDS Archives purportedly from Joseph Smith, Sr. for his  
12 grandson, did that assist you in any way?

13 A Oh, this is my handwriting up here. Yes, I  
14 read it. Let me read through and tell you how it assisted  
15 me, if it did. In fact, you could check when I examined  
16 this but I believe that I found out about this after I made  
17 this forgery. I believe that I first discovered this after  
18 making the forgery, although you could check. It seems like  
19 one of the historians up at the Church, after I had it, in  
20 fact, it seems like Earl Olsen mentioned this to me and I  
21 believe that he mentioned it as a result of me already  
22 having come in to the Church with it and that I did not know  
23 about it previously. I think that's it.

24 Q Didn't you find it up there and took a picture  
25 of it or something?

1           A       Yes. I asked him for a Xerox of it but I don't  
2 believe that that was until after the forgery was made.

3           Q       Do you remember your discussions with Michael  
4 Marquardt about it?

5           A       I remember discussing it with him. In fact, he  
6 may have been the one to have given me the Xerox. Let's  
7 see, is this my Xerox or just a copy of my Xerox that you  
8 found?

9           Q       Probably a copy of it.

10          A       Yes, I remember discussing it with Michael  
11 Marquardt about the Blessing. He was interested in the  
12 wording of it. Was trying to find out relationships between  
13 Section 124 and the Doctrine & Covenants and the Blessing,  
14 as I remember.

15          Q       Do you remember showing him--

16          A       I think he also, he has a large collection of  
17 underground Xeroxes. You know what I mean when I say that?  
18 And he probably had a copy of this but it seems like I got a  
19 copy from, in fact, I'm quite certain I got a copy from,  
20 Earl Olsen gave me permission to make a copy. I say that  
21 because I remember specifically that he was saying about how  
22 I had done so much for the Church, referring to the Anthon  
23 Transcript, that ordinarily he wouldn't do it but he did,  
24 and I remember him--

25                   Oh, no. That's wrong. I don't think he made me

1 a copy. I think that that was-- I asked to see the  
2 original. Ordinarily they just would like you to look at  
3 the Xeroxes. I asked to see the original document but I do  
4 not believe that he gave me a Xerox. I believe this must  
5 have come from Marquardt.

6 Q You don't remember taking a peek at it  
7 yourself?

8 A No, and I don't believe I saw it at the Church.  
9 Sometime after I had made the forgery, although you can, I  
10 guess, check dates or whatever at the Church when I looked  
11 at it or whatever. When I called it down from the Archives,  
12 but I believe it was after/

13 Q How was it you decided on the date, January 17,  
14 1844?

15 A As I remember it was a day that the people that  
16 were supposed to be present for the Blessing, according to  
17 Whitehead or whatever other sources, those people were in  
18 Nauvoo on that day. January would have been in the winter  
19 of '43-44. The 17th I believe was a fairly wide open day as  
20 far as there wasn't much recorded as far as Joseph Smith's  
21 activities.

22 Q Do you remember anything about supposedly  
23 Joseph Smith on a Sunday, the next Sunday, having a talk in  
24 which he brings Joseph Smith, Jr. to the stand? Was that  
25 significant at all as far as choosing the 17th?

1           A       Yes. In fact, now that you mention that, there  
2 is, I believe it was the next Sunday that Joseph Smith made  
3 some comments concerning his son in the recorded version of  
4 his discourse. That was significant, yes. There wasn't any  
5 mention in that recording that he specified, like Whitehead  
6 or other people later said, that this Blessing had actually  
7 taken place but I believe he talked about the genealogy of  
8 the fathers or something, and it could have easily taken  
9 place.

10           Q       Did you pick that 17th to correspondence with  
11 that Sunday?

12           A       Yes, that was part of it, yes.

13           Q       Why the the handwriting? Why Thomas Bullock's  
14 handwriting?

15           A       Because, I had previous experience with  
16 Bullock's handwriting in the manufacture of the White Notes  
17 and Thomas Bullock was a scribe at the time in Nauvoo of  
18 Joseph Smith.

19           Q       Did you know that or is that something you  
20 researched preparatory for this production?

21           A       I probably knew it as I was researching Thomas  
22 Bullock to, in preparation to forging other items besides  
23 this, specifically the White Notes and the associated  
24 material.

25           Q       How did you come up with the wording?

1 Did you give it much consideration? Did you try to copy  
2 something or what?

3 A No. It wasn't copying anything. I used the  
4 words that I thought Joseph Smith might use. A couple of  
5 the phrases are similar to Section 124. I adopted them from  
6 Section 124 of the LDS Doctrine & Covenants. Do you want me  
7 to tell you specifically which ones?

8 Q Uh huh (indicating affirmatively.)

9 A I believe in, "and his seed after him from  
10 generation to generation belonging to him by blessing". No,  
11 I don't think-- I'll take that back. That wasn't it.  
12 Possibly multiplicity of blessings shall be his. I think  
13 there are words that Joseph Smith used more than once.

14 Q In preparation for this, did you try to read  
15 any of the old patriarchal blessings that were common back  
16 in those days or anything like that?

17 A I don't remember doing so, no. Although, let's  
18 see, I'm wondering where I got this. "And he'll be wafted  
19 as on eagles wings". I must have taken that from someplace.

20 Q Sounds like it's taken from someplace all  
21 right.

22 MR. BIGGS: Sound real lyrical.

23 A I must have read that someplace and thought  
24 that it was something that Joseph Smith might say. I can't  
25 say. Hopefully it is not from Shakespeare or someplace.

1           Q       Let's go over the Blessing just a second, if we  
2       can. Just some things I want to ask you about. For  
3       example, on the title you have it there, Joseph Smith, 3rd.  
4       Was that your understanding of the way Joseph Smith, 3rd was  
5       addressed with the 3rd or why did you pick that rather  
6       than--

7           A       Rather than spelling out the word?

8           Q       Or using the three Ls or three ones after it?

9           A       I believe I had seen some previous writings of  
10      Thomas Bullock in which, I don't know if it was the 3rd, may  
11      have been the 2nd or 5th or something, where he wrote the  
12      numeral and then up above wrote TH after it or something, or  
13      RD in this case, and put a line under it and a dot. I think  
14      I was just copying Thomas Bullock's style.

15          Q       So it is not so important as to whether or not  
16      that is the way they addressed Joseph Smith, 3rd but more  
17      Bullock's style was your consideration?

18          A       As far as how they addressed him, they may have  
19      informally called him young Joe or something, but on an  
20      official document like this, I thought calling him by his  
21      full name would be appropriate and his full name was Joseph  
22      Smith, 3rd, and Bullock, rather than have written third  
23      after a name would have been the numeral 3 R D.

24          Q       Joseph Smith, Jr. You spell that J U N.

25          A       With an R up above. Again that was Thomas

1 Bullock's style.

2 Q With the junior?

3 A Yes. With writing the little R up there.

4 Q Did you consider at all whether or not, and you  
5 had researched it to determine if Joseph Smith was going by  
6 and using the title junior in 1844?

7 A He wasn't. No, he wasn't but again, being an  
8 official document I thought it would be appropriate to use  
9 his full name.

10 Q You notice down in the body--

11 A Especially since they're both named Joseph  
12 Smith. To differentiate one from the other. Though it was  
13 not common practice, I did not think it would be  
14 inappropriate to put a junior after his name. Although  
15 that's true, it wasn't common practice in 1844.

16 Q The words, "for he shall be my successor to  
17 the presidency of the priesthood, a seer, revelator and  
18 Prophet". Any particular reason in choosing those words?

19 A They sounded good to me. I don't know. I  
20 mean, this was a Blessing that I was forging to be, as to  
21 his successorship. Joseph Smith at this time, you know,  
22 like I say this was around the time that he was quite  
23 involved in the Endowment. High priesthood seemed to be a  
24 good word.

25 Q Did you specifically want to use the word

1 successor? Is that something you wanted to put in rather  
2 than some more nebulous term?

3 A It seemed appropriate to me so I put it in. I  
4 don't know if I can say that. Possibly because more than  
5 one of the people who claimed to have been at that meeting  
6 used the word "successor". I didn't think it was  
7 inappropriate.

8 Q Do you recall where inspirations or wording for  
9 the second paragraph came from?

10 A As I remember the first paragraph said  
11 basically everything that I needed to say, but it seems to  
12 take up such a little amount of paper that I-- and Joseph  
13 Smith had a tendency on occasion to say more than what was  
14 needed perhaps. It didn't seem inappropriate to me to, oh,  
15 let's see--

16 Q That's kind of a quaint, you know, a stylized  
17 way of putting things. Where did you come up with it? "

18 A His days shall be lengthened upon the earth  
19 and he will be received in an instant unto myself. Just  
20 seemed like words Joseph Smith would use. I don't believe I  
21 copied those from any particular source. In fact, if you  
22 find something I copied from I would like to know because I  
23 don't believe that I did. I think it was just, like I say,  
24 you know, it sounded to me like Joseph Smith's style but I  
25 don't think Joseph Smith said those specific words in any

1 other source. He might have though. I thought that that  
2 was the common thing. It would be an appropriate thing in a  
3 blessing to a young boy that he would live to a ripe old  
4 age. Part of it may have been to make the document seem  
5 more embarrassing to the LDS Church in that, according to  
6 LDS history, he did not abide in the Lord or at least did  
7 not follow the true Church. Yet Joseph Smith, 3rd did live  
8 to be an old man.

9 Like I say, as far as the words, "his days  
10 shall be lengthened upon the earth" and "like an instant  
11 unto myself". I don't believe I copied those from any  
12 specific source.

13 Q You have here, "he shall be a strength to his  
14 brethren and a comfort to his mother", and that looks  
15 suspiciously like the blessing from the grandfather,  
16 especially the last part of it. I wondered if that could  
17 have influenced you?

18 A Does sound a little like that.

19 Q Says "a comfort to your mother".

20 A I have a hard time believing that is a  
21 coincidence, although it might be. So that would lead me to  
22 believe, to be more skeptical of my previous statement that  
23 this was written before I saw this. You know, like I say,  
24 maybe it was just that I saw the original or something after  
25 this or something. I don't know. Although you could find

1 out. Like I say, when I called down at the Church Archives,  
2 when I first saw this, although, I really can't remember  
3 having seen, seems like I remember being surprised when I  
4 found out about another blessing of Joseph Smith, 3rd. I  
5 really don't. I have a hard time believing that I saw the  
6 blessing of Joseph Smith, Sr. to Joseph Smith, 3rd before I  
7 wrote mine. But I may have. And the only reason I would  
8 suspect that is because that wording is, strikes me as being  
9 more than a coincidence.

10 Q Do you know if the wording--

11 A Although it might be. I don't know.

12 Q Let's go back to motivation just a second, if  
13 we can.

14 A Just let me read this first.

15 Q Sure.

16 A This doesn't have the word, "comfort". Just  
17 says it shall, "you shall honor your father and mother".

18 Q Keep going. I just saw it, "a comfort to your  
19 mother".

20 A I would suspect that I did indeed see the  
21 Joseph Smith, Sr. Blessing before making the forgery, so  
22 that takes back everything I've said for the last 15  
23 minutes.

24 Q Why don't you think about that and then we'll  
25 come back and maybe we can get back into sequence again. So

1 let's just cover, let's go back to motive. Was this  
2 something that you really felt there was some big bucks in?

3 A Yes, I did, more than there ended up being.

4 Q You thought you would get more than you  
5 actually did?

6 A Yes, I thought it would be more interesting to  
7 the Church than it ended up being. Actually, it did not  
8 particularly interest the Church until the Reorganized  
9 Church became interested in it.

10 Q So your intent was originally to go to the LDS  
11 Church rather than the RLDS Church?

12 A That's right.

13 Q And also besides the money, what fascinated you  
14 about this particular aspect of the history, of finding this  
15 particular document or producing this particular document?

16 A Well, for one thing it has a controversial  
17 nature which always brings better money. Is that what you  
18 mean? What you want to know is all of my motivation or what  
19 I was thinking?

20 Q Yes.

21 A I believe my main motivation was money. My  
22 other would have been that it would be controversial so I  
23 could get the money. I thought that the Church would make a  
24 quick and secret purchase of it/

25 Q You mentioned earlier that one of your

1 motivations was this idea that you knew what Church history  
2 was and these were just kind of supplying to the history?

3 A Right.

4 Q Did this also apply to the Joseph Smith, 3rd  
5 document?

6 A Yes, it fit my concept of what could have  
7 happened.

8 Q Did you see anything in this or did you  
9 consider, was this something to in some way harm the LDS  
10 Church?

11 A That was not my original intent because, like I  
12 say, I didn't think it would see the light of day.

13 Q Did it become an intent later on?

14 A It cast me in a rather bad light with some  
15 people in the Church, I believe, yes.

16 Q But that wasn't part of your motivation?

17 A That's right.

18 Q Tell us where you got the paper from?

19 A It would have been an end sheet out of a book,  
20 most likely from the University of Utah but I can't remember  
21 the specific book it came out of. Although, I can guess.  
22 The paper is actually of a later date than 1844 although  
23 that would not be, I don't think that it would be shown  
24 through paper tests or scientific tests as far as the  
25 content of the paper. I say that only because of the type

1 of weave. It may have come, I believe from a periodical on  
2 the first floor. They have some science periodicals such as  
3 Scientific America and other items like that, that are  
4 bound.

5 Q Again, the University of Utah?

6 A The University of Utah. I believe it would  
7 have been an 1880 date. I probably would have checked the  
8 paper to make sure it didn't have wood pulp.

9 Q How do you check that?

10 A I had some, let's see if I remember. I don't  
11 remember what the chemicals are. Seems like it was a weak,  
12 acidic acid solution. I put a dot on the paper and if it  
13 turns brown it has wood pulp. If it doesn't change color it  
14 doesn't have wood pulp. But I can't be any more specific  
15 than that as far as where I got the paper from.

16 Q Do you remember if you cut it down any?

17 A I probably would have cut it down.

18 Q Do you know if you treated it before or after  
19 writing on it?

20 A Most likely I did, to keep the ink from  
21 feathering. The sizing I assumed would have been a laquer  
22 spray which would have been soaked off later by acetone.  
23 The laquer would have dissolved in the acetone.

24 Q You mentioned this feathering effect in the  
25 Anthon. Did you find that out through your reading or

1 experimentation that you had to be careful of that?

2 A Both. Before I figured out how to size the  
3 paper myself through various techniques, before I removed  
4 the page from the book I would lick the tip of my finger and  
5 touch it to the paper, type of thing, to see how fast the  
6 moisture would absorb to the other side or spread through  
7 the paper. I can tell you a simple process without damaging  
8 the document, if I had actually applied a sizing to the  
9 document, if you want me to do so.

10 Q Okay, sure. Tell us what the little experiment  
11 is you're doing.

12 A If I applied laquer to the document to keep the  
13 ink from feathering I would have later soaked that laquer  
14 off in acetone, most likely, acetone. And if I did that,  
15 then the paper would be of, or be fairly absorbent at this  
16 point. In other words, if I added sizing through a gelatin  
17 or calcium process treatment, the paper would still contain  
18 that sizing and the paper at this point would not be as  
19 absorbent. To determine which process I used, which I  
20 believe was the spraying on of a laquer, at this date when I  
21 made it, I would lick my finger unless you--

22 Q The record should show Mark licked his finger  
23 and is placing the licked finger on the bottom righthand  
24 corner of the corner?

25 A On the bottom righthand corner of the document.

1           Q       Now, we have the fingerprint.

2           A       And I see that the paper, I was wrong in what I  
3 said a moment ago. That the paper is not absorbent.  
4 Therefore, either another sizing technique was used or even  
5 though the paper is old, possibly from the 1880s, that is  
6 the date I guessed on it, the original sizing is still  
7 present. So it was not necessary to treat the paper in any  
8 way.

9           Q       Of course, you don't know whether or not the  
10 LDS Church or RLDS Church specifically would have treated  
11 the paper after you got it?

12          A       That's true. Although in treating it they  
13 would have deacidified it. Well, I don't know, maybe their  
14 process would have prevented it from being as absorbent, I  
15 don't know.

16          Q       What you're saying is you don't know really  
17 know if you added anything to it or not?

18          A       No, I can't say for sure if I did or not.

19          Q       Was it your common practice to size it?

20          A       Although I probably did. I say that only  
21 because most paper that's old needs to be treated before ink  
22 is applied.

23          Q       What about the ink itself? Where was that  
24 derived from?

25          A       It would have been of my own manufacture. Very

1 basically the same recipe, although probably without the  
2 logwood as the Anthon Transcript. Logwood was not used  
3 extensively in ink in the 1840s.

4 Q So that leaves what elements?

5 A It would have been a tannic acid, ferric  
6 sulfate and gum arabic were the two major. There may have  
7 been, you know, some other ingredient such as carbolic acid  
8 which we used to keep the ink from molding, was used in this  
9 particular time period fairly extensively.

10 Q You mixed it up yourself?

11 A Yes, I would have made it myself.

12 Q At home? At your home?

13 A Yes. I would have made it on a hotplate as far  
14 as heating the water. Probably distilled water is what I  
15 used. Sometime we'll need to go in to the evolution of my  
16 ink manufacturing. Do you want to do that now?

17 Q It is evolved a little bit from these two  
18 documents just with the logwood, but is it significant at  
19 this period of time?

20 A No, I would have made it the same way. Boiled  
21 water, dissolved tannic acid and some other water. I  
22 probably would have dissolved the gum arabic and the ferric  
23 sulfate and then would have mixed them together.

24 Q Let's go in to that evolution another time,  
25 okay?

1           A       Okay.

2           Q       What kind of a pen, if you can remember, did  
3 you use?

4           A       It would have been a steel nibbed pen.

5           Q       There is, of course, two different parts of  
6 writings on it. The main part purportedly of Thomas Bullock  
7 on the back, appears to be something in perhaps Thomas  
8 Bullock's handwriting with a date and the other which is  
9 purportedly in Joseph Smith's handwriting.

10          A       Right.

11          Q       You wrote everything on the document, is that  
12 correct?

13          A       Yes.

14          Q       Did you use different ink on any of the  
15 writings?

16          A       I could have but not that I remember. It looks  
17 to me to be the same ink.

18          Q       What was your reason for putting the Joseph  
19 Smith signature on the back and then the Thomas Bullock  
20 cataloging or whatever it is?

21          A       His docketing. It would have been to show that  
22 the Blessing was made during Joseph Smith's lifetime or  
23 actually copied during his lifetime and it rather validates  
24 it and it is a common practice of forgers to add other  
25 handwriting in order to validate or authenticate a document.

1           Q       Was there anything significant in the folding  
2 pattern?  
3           A       What?  
4           Q       Folding pattern. Looks like it was folded into  
5 thirds.  
6           A       This was, I believe, a fairly common way to  
7 fold documents and docket them.  
8           Q       You said docketing twice. Was docketing  
9 something you were looking to show?  
10          A       Yes, where I wrote the January 17, 1844 and  
11 Joseph Smith, the writing of Joseph Smith's Blessing.  
12          Q       What do you mean by docketing?  
13          A       That is where it would have been folded and  
14 probably put in a file with those words I just said. Easily  
15 seen in the file. So if someone wanted to obtain the  
16 Blessing out of a file they wouldn't have to unfold all of  
17 the pieces of paper and look at them to see what they were.  
18 It's fairly commonly done and I wanted to make it appear to  
19 be as common as possible.  
20          Q       Let's talk about the Thomas Bullock  
21 handwriting. Apparently you did quite a bit of research  
22 into it. Do you want to tell us about your research and  
23 what you found?  
24          A       From various sources I obtained Xeroxes of the  
25 handwriting throughout different parts of his life.

1 Q Church Archives?

2 A His handwriting changed. From the Church  
3 Archives. Probably mostly from other historians. See, the  
4 Church Archives, they don't let you copy material and I  
5 wanted Xeroxes so I probably asked some other historians for  
6 copies of what I was interested in.

7 Q Do you remember who?

8 A Can we good off the record?

9 DISCUSSION HELD OFF THE RECORD

10 Q What did you do with the Xeroxes once you got  
11 them? Did you have to practice his handwriting? Did it  
12 come easy or what?

13 A Yes, I practiced it but it came easy.

14 Q Did you do any research in to the style,  
15 technical style, name of it or where it would have come  
16 from?

17 A Yes, a little bit. You don't see the style  
18 very much in America but I believe he learned it in England.  
19 I did some study as far as the formation of the letters,  
20 study as far as how he lifted his pen in making words and  
21 letters.

22 Q Anything else you studied such as, although  
23 this is a blessing, did you study Thomas Bullock's syntax or  
24 study the way he formulated his lines on the paper, for  
25 example, or what?

1           A       Yes. Probably to some extent I did. Now, that  
2 I think about it, seems like later I seen more of his  
3 writing. I determined there would have been a better way to  
4 lay out, it seems like the way that I wrote it more closely  
5 imitated his letters which was my source of his handwriting  
6 rather than how he wrote documents such as this. I believe  
7 that, for example, the indentations on the paragraph should  
8 have been greater. He commonly used a line to separate  
9 paragraphs or he almost certainly would have in a text such  
10 as this which occupies less than a half of the page. All  
11 of which I guess would raise suspicion, although not  
12 discredit the Blessing because he wrote similar to this too,  
13 I believe.

14           Q       Is there anything else on the Blessing you  
15 would point to that, to show there should be some questions  
16 asked or some problems with it?

17           A       You know, all of these. I knew you were going  
18 to ask that on all these after I told you about that on the  
19 Anthon. Yes, actually the verso, the words Joseph Smith,  
20 3rd Blessing, I believe are rather crude and in fact, I did  
21 something which should never be done by a forger and that is  
22 I traced over those words or at least parts of them.

23           Q       What do you mean by that, you traced over them?

24           A       I wrote it once and didn't like how it looked  
25 and traced over it again.

1 Q You wrote it on the paper?

2 A Right.

3 Q With the ink?

4 A Right. I saw that, for example, the first S  
5 in Blessing was shaky I know, since it was written slowly  
6 and not in the speedy way Joseph Smith would have written  
7 it, as I think. If you look at it, it looks like it is  
8 drawn and not speedily written. Seeing that the first S in  
9 the blessing was shaky I erased the S and wrote a new one.

10 Q How did you erase it?

11 A It would have been with a mechanical rather  
12 than a chemical process. In other words, it would have been  
13 scratched out, possibly with a toothpick and some pumice.

14 Q Now, you specifically remember doing this or  
15 are you saying what would have happened?

16 A I remember specifically that I traced over the  
17 Joseph Smith, 3rd Blessing that I wrote.

18 Q The words on the back?

19 A The words are sloppy so I purposely traced  
20 over. I remember specifically, for example, the bottom  
21 loop in the first S in Blessing was shaky. I remember  
22 specifically improving that. All of which presumably would  
23 show under magnification with an ultraviolet microscope,  
24 ultraviolet light. In fact, I can see with my naked eye  
25 that the second hump on the M in Smith has been traced over.

1 I can see the original erased version of that inside that  
2 hump. I also see a lot of shakiness, for example in the TH-  
3 of Smith which should not be there on the authentic,  
4 speedily shaped signed document. I can see that shakiness  
5 elsewhere between the S and E in Joseph. It is, in my  
6 opinion, not a very convincing Joseph Smith, 3rd Blessing.  
7 In fact, it was somewhat surprising to me later when that  
8 particular part of the document was used by a handwriting  
9 expert, employed by the Reorganized Church to evaluate the  
10 entire document, since the particular part that was so  
11 closely looked at, in my judgment, is a much worse forgery  
12 than the rest.

13 Q How did you age the ink on the paper?

14 A It would have been aged probably on a metal  
15 screen such as you would find on storm doors with suction  
16 pulling down from the front of the document in to the back  
17 through an arrangement I had worked up with an old vacuum  
18 cleaner and then it would have been either sprayed or  
19 painted with hydrogen peroxide, I believe. The purpose of  
20 the sucking is to bring the characteristic aging or brown of  
21 the ink through to the back side. Then again, I'm just  
22 guessing how I did this because I can't say for sure.

23 I believe afterwards I would have, after the  
24 front of it was aged I would have added the words on the  
25 back and by reversing the document on a screen I would have

1       aged the ink on the other side also with hydrogen peroxide.  
2       I shouldn't say aged, I should say oxidized the ink.

3               Q       You're talking about not a mesh screen but  
4       metal screen with some sort of air space with it?

5               A       Yes, just like a screen on a window. Would  
6       have been made out of that same material.

7               Q       Wire?

8               A       Yes, just wire screen.

9               Q       Mesh?

10              A       Little squares, mesh, yes. Do you know what I  
11       mean?

12              Q       How did you devise this? Is this something you  
13       thought of?

14              A       Yes, I saw it on old documents that the ink--  
15       off the record.

16                               DISCUSSION HELD OFF THE RECORD

17                               SHORT BREAK

18              Q       You were explaining why you felt it was  
19       important to use this screening device with the air suction?

20              A       Yes, the purpose was to, as the ink was  
21       oxidized.

22                               MR. BIGGS: Did we get the off the record  
23       statement?

24              A       Right, I was going to make a statement and that  
25       was, discussed off the record.

1                   MR. STOTT:   What was the purpose of the  
2 screen?

3           A        The purpose of the screen is to draw the  
4 diffusion of the ink, it was wet by hydrogen peroxide  
5 through to the back side of the document to give it the  
6 characteristic browning on the reverse.

7                   MR. BIGGS:   How is it dried?

8           A        After it was about the right color I liked, I  
9 dipped it in water or something to remove the hydrogen  
10 peroxide, take away the oxidation process and then it was  
11 put in a book, most likely, a large book with tissue paper  
12 to absorb the moisture and dry the front.

13           Q        On ultraviolet photographs of this particular  
14 document, Anthon, there is some directional running. Do you  
15 know what would have caused it?

16           A        I can imagine what would have caused it but I  
17 can't say for sure. What I would imagine is I turned off  
18 the vacuum, took it off of the screen, held it vertically  
19 when I dipped it in the water. That's just a guess. I  
20 haven't experimented how to avoid that.

21                   MR. STOTT:   You weren't aware of that result?+

22           A        No. Well, I knew that, I had studied  
23 documents. I don't know about this specifically but I had  
24 looked at documents under ultraviolet light and wasn't  
25 obviously concerned with running since I saw that on genuine

1 documents. Although the unidirectional running is more  
2 suspicious. I guess the only explanation as far as, if you  
3 want to know what I would have tried to persuade Ron,  
4 perhaps to say in trial to counteract that would be some  
5 other documents I know of that have that characteristic  
6 which are known to be genuine, which have been in a flood  
7 or some such thing, which, in preparation for trial we  
8 examined under ultraviolet light and found the  
9 unidirectional running type thing. Of course, we couldn't  
10 have disclosed in trial they would have been in a flood/

11 MR. RICH: I take it you never examined any  
12 of these documents under ultraviolet light after you created  
13 them?

14 A Not this one I didn't, but later I did.  
15 Although, you never did get my ultraviolet light out of the  
16 house?

17 MR. STOTT: You had one?

18 A More than one.

19 Q And none of them were removed by the police?

20 A No. But only because they weren't in the room  
21 they took everything out of. You know what I mean because  
22 it seems like they specialized in the one room and you got  
23 enough out of that so don't complain.

24 Q I don't know if I asked you about the pen you  
25 used on this one?

1           A       I believe it would have been two different  
2       pens, one for Bullock's and one for Joseph Smith.

3           Q       Do you remember if they were feathered?

4           A       They were steal nibbed, which Joseph Smith  
5       always used.

6           Q       Other than getting some Thomas Bullock material  
7       was Michael Quinn involved in this in any way as far as  
8       giving you any information or as a source?

9           A       It may be that he gave me information. I may  
10      have gone to him telling him of my interest in the Blessing.  
11      Perhaps even telling him that I thought the Church had such  
12      a thing trying to get verification or whatever from him in  
13      secret and the passion of later making a forgery, that may  
14      have been. I'm not saying that was.

15           MR. BIGGS: Does it ever concern you at any  
16      particular time you attempting to forge a document which the  
17      Church already had but never made public to anyone?

18           A       No. That didn't concern me. For one thing, I  
19      thought if they had such a document it wouldn't still be in  
20      existence. If they ever had such a document, in other  
21      words. Not to say that the Church now a days would go  
22      around burning documents or anything but, and if another  
23      blessing was given, presumably if the Church had a copy it  
24      would not have matched my words since I made mine up and I  
25      don't feel like I was inspired at the time. So the

1 explanation again would have been now, if I was brought to  
2 trial or something, it would have been well, he had two  
3 blessings within a week or whatever, or within a month,  
4 which was not uncommon in those days. They gave multiple, I  
5 think I've seen three or four patriarchal blessing for the  
6 same guy in a year.

7 MR. STOTT: You told a few people a story,  
8 something to the effect that when you were first showing  
9 this, Brother Gibbons made some interesting comments,  
10 something to the effect it is almost, he was familiar with  
11 it and had seen it earlier.

12 A Which is only partially accurate and not  
13 accurate at all in that he had seen it earlier. As I look  
14 back on it I'm sure that he was familiar with the Blessing.  
15 It was alleged to have taken place and that was his  
16 familiarity. I thought, I originally, when I showed it to  
17 the First Presidency's office, showed it to another  
18 secretary, I think his first name is Mike.

19 Q Watson?

20 A Mike Watson, who then went, left his office and  
21 me and went to talk to-- actually we weren't in his office,  
22 we were just in a room there with the other secretaries, but  
23 he went into talk to Francis Gibbons and he came back and  
24 said something like Mr. Gibbons knows all about it or  
25 something and that kind of gets back to what you were

1 saying, what if they did have another document or something  
2 and I was wondering what in the heck was going on. But then  
3 when he came back he read it and didn't act surprised by it.  
4 As far as saying that he remembered it word for word or  
5 whatever, of course, that is nonsense, having never seen it  
6 before.

7 Q Is that a story though that you gave?

8 A Yes, I believe I told that to a couple people.

9 Q Why?

10 A More to validate it than anything. To validate  
11 the document. To make it look like they already had a copy  
12 of it or whatever.

13 Q So other than the fact that he may have been  
14 aware of the possibility of such a document there is no  
15 validity to that story?

16 A He gave no indication that he knew of any or  
17 had seen a blessing of Joseph Smith to his son but he knew  
18 the story that it supposedly had happened. Which everyone  
19 familiar with the Church history, I think, knows. But  
20 nothing beyond that.

21 Q Do you have any information at all that such a  
22 document such as the one that you made up, exists in the  
23 Church Archives or in Church possession?

24 A No, I don't believe such a document does.  
25 Mainly because they were taken by this one and I've never

1 had any indication otherwise.

2 Q How did you come up with the story of how you  
3 found it? Was that contemporaneous with your research in to  
4 the contents?

5 A I had previously been discussing the origin of  
6 the handwritten notes, mentioned that I acquired them from  
7 Thomas Bullock's family and I had this come from the same  
8 source. That went over so well, that explanation, as far  
9 as the origin of the White Notes, that I used the same  
10 source for this document.

11 Q What did you tell-- First, was there a story  
12 you had to tell and did you have to tell more or did you  
13 pretty well tell the whole thing as far as finding it?

14 A Actually I didn't tell so much as what people  
15 assumed. Specifically about its origin, Coalville origin.  
16 I don't remember mentioning the Bullocks in Coalville who  
17 Don Schmidt mentioned the Church had acquired previously  
18 some items from the Bullock family, from descendants, I  
19 believe by the name of Bullock who lived in Coalville, Utah.  
20 He kind of asked me, he asked me if that was the same source  
21 and I just, I did not verify it or deny it. I just think I  
22 just kind of smiled and let them assume it.

23 Q How about your friends at this time? Of  
24 course, I don't know at that time whether or not you knew,  
25 such as Marquardt or I don't know if you knew Jacobs at that

1 time. What where you telling them?

2 A I didn't know them very well, if I did. As far  
3 as the source?

4 Q Uh huh (indicating affirmatively.)

5 A I can't remember that I said a name to anybody  
6 other than to the Church as far as where I acquired it from.

7 Q There came a time that you signed an affidavit  
8 or maybe more than one. Was it more than one or just one?

9 A Just one that I know of.

10 Q How did that come up?

11 A After the Church, the LDS Church had acquired  
12 the Blessing and were in the process of making a trade with  
13 the Reorganized Church, Don Schmidt told me that the  
14 Reorganized Church was interested in the provenance and  
15 would like an affidavit from the person who sold it to me.  
16 He asked if that would be possible and I obviously should  
17 have told him no, but instead I provided him with an  
18 affidavit signed by Alan Bullock, which person, as far as I  
19 know, never existed.

20 Q How did you go about getting that affidavit?

21 A Took me a couple attempts to do it. In going  
22 to various places, specifically libraries, who have notary  
23 publics and asking them to notarize a document that I had.  
24 The reason why I say it took more than one attempt is I had  
25 to find a notary public who would do that without

1 identification.

2 Q So you found one?

3 A And I found one and had him do it.

4 Q What was his name and where at?

5 A I don't remember his name but it is on the  
6 affidavit. He was at, let's see, I believe my first attempt  
7 I believe was at the University of Utah and then I went to  
8 the Sandy Library and I believe that I succeeded at the  
9 Whitmore Library on 72nd South. The person was an employee  
10 there and I handed him the document and said, I need this  
11 notarized.

12 Q Was it signed in front of him?

13 A Yes, I signed it right there.

14 Q You signed it?

15 A I signed Alan Bullock's name.

16 Q Was there someone with you?

17 A No.

18 Q You didn't have anybody else with you?

19 A No.

20 Q Just signed it in front of him?

21 A That's right.

22 Q And did he notarize it?

23 A Then he notarized it

24 MR. BIGGS: You know way back when before the  
25 plea we were talking about whether you had any false

1 identification and you made reference to this Alan Bullock  
2 thing. Did you have any false identification in Alan  
3 Bullock's name?

4 A Nothing convincing. I had some other papers  
5 that had Alan Bullock's name on it and stuff.

6 Q That you did?

7 A Yes. You know, like I had a letter that I,  
8 that was addressed to Alan Bullock and stuff, I had with me  
9 and different stuff. Which I used or which I tried to use  
10 at some other places. I said well, I believe I have, I have  
11 some things with my name on and stuff. None of which were  
12 accepted. Although on this occasion at the Whitmore Library  
13 I didn't show him anything at all, not even those or  
14 anything when he signed it. Now, you've talked to this  
15 person, I presume.

16 MR. STOTT: On any of the occasions did you  
17 have someone come along with you?

18 A No.

19 Q Did you ever ask someone to accompany you?

20 A No. I'm sure no one was with me or, you know,  
21 I didn't ask them to come with me. I presume that you're  
22 asking that because he remembers someone with me or what, or  
23 I'm wondering. It was so long ago, I mean, it would  
24 surprise me if he would say he remembers someone with me or  
25 remembered the incident at all. Did he remember the

1 incident?

2 Q We'll, have to go back and check the notes on  
3 that.

4 A There is apparently on the affidavit-- Now,  
5 he said that is his signature, didn't he? So I mean--

6 Q When you came back and gave it to Schmidt, what  
7 happened?

8 A The agreement was made before I gave it to him  
9 and he asked me for it, that no one would receive a copy of  
10 it and it would just be kept privately by the Church, and  
11 that he would notify the Reorganized Church that he had such  
12 a thing, but would not give them a copy of it.

13 Q Did he get some more information from you about  
14 it, about Bullock?

15 A Probably, but I don't remember what information  
16 he got.

17 Q Didn't you give him an initial or date of  
18 birth?

19 A I may have given him a year of birth. I doubt  
20 I gave him a date. I think I told him it was an elderly  
21 gentleman. I think I told him he was from out of town. I  
22 don't think I said where.

23 Q Do you remember whether you came up with the  
24 date of birth or initials?

25 A When?

1 Q How you came up with it?

2 A Just out of my head, just in asking-- Why do  
3 you ask that? There's not an Alan Bullock born on that  
4 date, is there.

5 Q Yes.

6 A Really? Again, it's pure coincidence because  
7 I'm sure I just made it up. It may have been I got that  
8 name from the Bullock genealogy but I don't remember doing  
9 so. It wasn't important to me anyway so if I did it didn't  
10 sink in because I sure as heck don't remember.

11 WHEREUPON, the proceedings were adjourned at the hour  
12 of 5:10 p. m.

13 -----

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

100

101

102

103

104

105

106



